2022 NFL DRAFT
INFORMATION GUIDE

NFL DRAFT 2022

2022 BALTIMORE RAVENS DRAFT PICKS (10)

FIRST	14TH
SECOND	45TH
THIRD	76TH
THIRD	100TH (COMP)
FOURTH	110TH (VIA NYG)
FOURTH	119TH
FOURTH	128TH (VIA ARI.)
FOURTH	139TH (COMP)
FOURTH	141ST (COMP)
SIXTH	196TH (VIA MIA.)

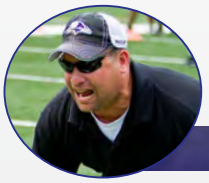
RAVENS 2022 NFL DRAFT GUIDE

"[The Draft] is the lifeblood of this organization, and we take it very seriously. We try to make it a science, we really do. But in the end, it's probably more of an art than a science. There's a lot of nuance involved. It's a big-picture thing. It's a lot of bits and pieces of information. It's gut instinct. It's experience, which I think is really, really important."

ERIC DECOSTA
Executive VP & General Manager
27th Season w/ Ravens, 4th as EVP & GM

OZZIE NEWSOME
Executive Vice President
27th Season w/ Ravens

JOE HORTIZ
Director of Player Personnel
25th Season w/ Ravens



GEORGE KOKINIS
Director of Player Personnel
26th Season w/ Ravens

SUCCESS ACROSS THE BOARD

1st Round – Jonathan Ogden ('96), Ray Lewis ('96), Peter Boulware ('97), Chris McAlister ('99), Jamal Lewis ('00), Todd Heap ('01), Ed Reed ('02), Terrell Suggs ('03), Haloti Ngata ('06), Ben Grubbs ('07), Joe Flacco ('08), Michael Oher ('09), Jimmy Smith ('11), C.J. Mosley ('14), Ronnie Stanley ('16), Marlon Humphrey ('17), Lamar Jackson ('18), Marquise Brown ('19), Patrick Queen ('20)

2nd Round – Jamie Sharper ('97), Anthony Weaver ('02), Ray Rice ('08), Paul Kruger ('09), Torrey Smith ('11), Courtney Upshaw ('12), Kelechi Osemele ('12), Tyus Bowser ('17), J.K. Dobbins ('20)

3rd Round – Casey Rabach ('01), Marshal Yanda ('07), Lardarius Webb ('09), Brandon Williams ('13), Orlando Brown Jr. ('18), Mark Andrews ('18), Devin Duvernay ('20), Justin Madubuike ('20)

4th Round – Edwin Mulitalo ('99), Brandon Stokley ('99), Edgerton Hartwell ('01), Jarret Johnson ('03), Le'Ron McClain ('07), Dennis Pitta ('10), Kyle Juszczyk ('13), Za'Darius Smith ('15), Tavon Young ('16), Anthony Averett ('18)

5th Round – Jermaine Lewis ('96), Dawan Landry ('06), Arthur Jones ('10), Pernell McPhee ('11), Rick Wagner ('13), Nick Boyle ('15), Matthew Judon ('16)

6th Round – Adalius Thomas ('00), Chester Taylor ('02), Sam Koch ('06), Tyrod Taylor ('11), Ryan Jensen ('13), Darren Waller ('15), Chuck Clark ('17), Bradley Bozeman ('18), DeShon Elliott ('18)

7th Round – DeAngelo Tyson ('12), Michael Campanaro ('14), Zach Sieler ('18)

ROOKIE FA – Mike Flynn ('97), Priest Holmes ('97), Will Demps ('02), Bart Scott ('02), Ma'ake Kemoeatu ('02), Jameel McClain ('08), Dannell Ellerbe ('09), Morgan Cox ('10), Josh Bynes ('11), Justin Tucker ('12), James Hurst ('14), Zach Orr ('14), Patrick Onwuasor ('16), Michael Pierce ('16), Matt Skura ('16), Patrick Ricard ('17), Chris Board ('18), Gus Edwards ('18), Patrick Mekari ('19), Tyler Huntley ('20)

PATRICK QUEEN
2020 1st-Round Pick

TYUS BOWSER
2017 2nd-Round Pick

MARLON HUMPHREY
2017 1st-Round Pick

MARQUISE BROWN
2019 1st-Round Pick

J.K. DOBBINS
2020 2nd-Round Pick

2022 RAVENS DRAFT GUIDE

In three seasons (2019-21) as the Ravens' executive vice president and general manager, Eric DeCosta has constructed rosters that have yielded two playoff berths, 34 combined victories, 25 Pro Bowl selections and nine first-team All-Pro honorees. These squads have received notable contributions from rookie draft picks – such as WR Marquise Brown, LB Patrick Queen, RB J.K. Dobbins, WR Rashod Bateman and OLB Odafe Oweh – making Baltimore an annual playoff contender.

In 2022, DeCosta is directing his fourth NFL Draft. If history repeats itself, Eric, directors of player personnel Joe Hortiz and George Kokinis and EVP Ozzie Newsome and Co. will tab players who will make immediate and long-lasting impacts on the Ravens' continued success.

Baltimore's process includes 31 full-time members of the scouting department and receives valuable input from its coaches. Much of the staff has been with the franchise since its 1996 inception or has graduated from the "20/20 Club." The group includes members who began with the Ravens as young assistants and grew into evaluators with more input. The term refers to hiring "20-year-olds for $20,000." "Actually, the guys started when they were a little older than 20 and for more than $20,000, but that's what we call them," Newsome explained. (DeCosta is a graduate of the "20/20 Club.")

The Ravens don't belong to the National Football Scouting group, which provides member teams lists/reports on players eligible for the draft. "We make our own list, and that means we look at all players on a college roster," DeCosta notes.

Baltimore's personnel department includes a large support staff that helps handle the load. "We do a lot of cross-checking," DeCosta states. "A number of us look at everyone, and then we have the area scouts look at certain players from other regions so we get multiple grades and opinions on all of the players."

Once the Ravens define a player as a "draftable" talent, John Harbaugh and his staff are assigned to add more study, which includes visits and workouts with some of the players.

"Over the years, Ozzie has assembled such a good, hard-working personnel staff, but what has made it even better is the enthusiasm and thorough work done by Coach Harbaugh and his staff," DeCosta affirms. "Their input has had impact on our board and will again within this draft."

The process has always encouraged scouts and coaches to have strong opinions. "We have very open dialogue. We want everyone's opinion, especially from the scouts who have looked at the players the longest. Another strength of our room is that we respect and listen to each other," Newsome says.

Baltimore's scouting staff always talks about taking the "highest-rated player on our board" when it comes time to select a player. The Ravens' history proves that. When it had a Pro Bowl left tackle with Tony Jones, Baltimore selected Hall of Famer Jonathan Ogden, who was the first pick (fourth overall in '96) in team history. When the Ravens had Pro Bowl players like Priest Holmes, Shannon Sharpe and Mark Ingram II, the Ravens selected Jamal Lewis and Todd Heap in the first round and Dobbins in the second.

"We have a lot of confidence in our staff," DeCosta declares. "I believe we have the league's best scouts, and our process makes draft day efficient, exhilarating and fun. The work we put in throughout the year allows us to feel confident and prepared as we take that next step to strengthen our team each April."

RAVENS PLAYER PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

Eric DeCosta
EVP & General Manager

Ozzie Newsome
Executive Vice President

Pat Moriarty
Sr. VP of Football Operations

Joe Hortiz
Director of Player Personnel

George Kokinis
Director of Player Personnel

Nick Matteo
VP of Football Administration

Vincent Newsome
Sr. Player Personnel Exec.

David McDonald
Dir. of Research & Develop.

Mark Azevedo
Asst. Dir. of College & Pro Pers.

David Blackburn
National Scout

Andrew Raphael
National Scout

Brandon Berning
MW/SW Area Scout

Joey Cleary
Southeast Area Scout

Corey Frazier
West Coast Area Scout

Chas Stallard
Southwest Area Scout

Bobby Vega
East Area Scout

Kevin Weidl
SE/MW Area Scout

"Q" Attenoukon
Pro & College Scout

Steve Clagett
Scouting Research & Dev. Mgr.

Corey Krawiec
Mgr., Player Eval. & Analytics

Patrick McDonough
Pro & College Scout

Maggie Domanowski
Personnel Admin. Asst.

Jenn Hoffman
Exec. Asst. to EVP & GM

Sarah Mallepalle
Player Personnel Analyst

James Oncea
Football Systems Developer

Derrick Yam
Quantitative Analyst

TJ Ajibola
Travis Hawkins
Darrius Heyward-Bey
Terrell Parker
Andrew Rogan
Player Personnel Assistants

2022 RAVENS DRAFT GUIDE

Over the past 26 seasons, led by Ozzie Newsome and Eric DeCosta, Baltimore has drafted a league-high (tied) 17 players who have earned *AP* first-team All-Pro honors. When including undrafted rookies LS Morgan Cox and K Justin Tucker, the Ravens have produced 19 "homegrown" *AP* first-team All-Pro selections since their 1996 inception.

MOST DRAFT PICKS TO EARN FIRST-TEAM ALL-PRO SINCE 1996 / RAVENS INCEPTION

Rk.	Team	Players
1.	**Baltimore Ravens**	**17**
	New England Patriots	17
	Pittsburgh Steelers	17
4.	Dallas Cowboys	16
	San Francisco 49ers	16

RAVENS DRAFT PICKS TO EARN FIRST-TEAM ALL-PRO

- ✗ Mark Andrews (1)
- ✗ Devin Duvernay (1)
- ✗ Marlon Humphrey (1)
- ✗ Lamar Jackson (1)
- ✗ Jamal Lewis (1)
- ✗ Jermaine Lewis (1)
- ✗ Ray Lewis (7)
- ✗ Chris McAlister (1)
- ✗ Le'Ron McClain (1)
- ✗ Haloti Ngata (2)
- ✗ Jonathan Ogden (4)
- ✗ Kelechi Osemele* (1)
- ✗ Ed Reed (5)
- ✗ Ronnie Stanley (1)
- ✗ Terrell Suggs (1)
- ✗ Adalius Thomas (1)
- ✗ Marshal Yanda (2)

(1st-Team APs) (* w/ Oak.)

"I find myself saying this every year, but good players seem to find the Ravens in each draft." – The Athletic's Dane Brugler

"[The Ravens] have always done a great job of putting themselves in position to nab blue-chip players that may fall down the board, particularly, in the first round." – NFL.com's Bucky Brooks

MARK ANDREWS
3rd Round: 2018

Two-Time Pro Bowler & 2021 All-Pro

There have been 109 combined Pro Bowl selections among players who were drafted by the Ravens. (These include selections while playing for Baltimore and, in some cases, selections later playing for another team.)

The 109 combined Pro Bowl selections among players who were drafted by Baltimore rank as the NFL's most since the Ravens' 1996 inception.

MOST PRO BOWL SELECTIONS BY PLAYERS DRAFTED SINCE 1996 / RAVENS INCEPTION

Rk.	Team	Pro Bowl Selections
1.	**Baltimore Ravens**	**109**
2.	Dallas Cowboys	93
	Kansas City Chiefs	93
4.	Pittsburgh Steelers	91
5.	New England Patriots	89

The Ravens have produced five *AP* Player of the Year honors and one *AP* NFL MVP. Baltimore has also had two players earn Defensive ROY, two garner Super Bowl MVP honors and three inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. All of these players (below) are Ravens draft picks.

Draft Pick (Year)	Major Accolades
Jonathan Ogden (1996)	Pro Football Hall of Fame (2013)
Ray Lewis (1996)	2000 & 2003 Def. POY; SB XXXV MVP; Pro Football HOF (2018)
Peter Boulware (1997)	1997 Defensive Rookie of the Year
Jamal Lewis (2000)	2003 Offensive Player of the Year
Ed Reed (2002)	2004 Defensive POY; Pro Football HOF (2019)
Terrell Suggs (2003)	2003 Defensive ROY; 2011 Defensive POY
Joe Flacco (2008)	Super Bowl XLVII MVP
Lamar Jackson (2018)	2019 NFL MVP

LAMAR JACKSON
1st Round: 2018

2019 NFL MVP & Two-Time Pro Bowler

2022 RAVENS DRAFT GUIDE

RAVENS HOMEGROWN PRO BOWLERS

Year Drafted (Rd.)	Name	Pro Bowls
1996 (1st)	LB Ray Lewis	13
1996 (1st)	T Jonathan Ogden	11
2002 (1st)	S Ed Reed	9
2007 (3rd)	G Marshal Yanda	8
2003 (1st)	OLB Terrell Suggs	7
2006 (1st)	DT Haloti Ngata	5
2012 (RFA)	**K Justin Tucker #**	**5**
1997 (1st)	OLB Peter Boulware	4
2010 (RFA)	LS Morgan Cox #	4
2014 (1st)	LB C.J. Mosley	4
1999 (1st)	CB Chris McAlister	3
2017 (RFA)	**FB Patrick Ricard #**	**3**
2008 (2nd)	Ray Rice	3
2018 (3rd)	**TE Mark Andrews**	**2**
2018 (3rd)	T Orlando Brown Jr.	2
2001 (1st)	TE Todd Heap	2
2017 (1st)	CB Marlon Humphrey	2
2018 (1st)	**QB Lamar Jackson**	**2**
2016 (5th)	OLB Matthew Judon	2
1996 (5th)	WR/RS Jermaine Lewis	2
2007 (4th)	FB Le'Ron McClain	2
2000 (6th)	OLB Adalius Thomas	2
2020 (3rd)	**WR/RS Devin Duvernay**	**1**
2007 (1st)	G Ben Grubbs	1
2013 (4th)	FB Kyle Juszczyk	1
2006 (6th)	P Sam Koch	1
2000 (1st)	RB Jamal Lewis	1
2002 (RFA)	LB Bart Scott #	1
2016 (1st)	T Ronnie Stanley	1
2013 (3rd)	DT Brandon Williams	1

 # Undrafted Rookie Free Agent **Bold Indicates 2021 Pro Bowler**

THE RAVENS HAVE HAD 51 DIFFERENT PLAYERS EARN PRO BOWL HONORS WHILE PLAYING FOR THEM SINCE THE TEAM'S 1996 INCEPTION. OF THOSE, 30 ARE HOMEGROWN – 26 DRAFTED AND 4 SIGNED AS A ROOKIE FREE AGENT.

ED REED
1st Round: 2002

Nine-Time Pro Bowler & Hall of Famer

RAY LEWIS
1st Round: 1996

13-Time Pro Bowler & Hall of Famer

Baltimore has drafted three players (Jonathan Ogden, Ray Lewis & Ed Reed) who were selected to the Hall of Fame. For Ogden & Lewis, it was the first time ever two players were drafted in the same round (1st in 1996) by a team and reached the HOF in their initial year of eligibility.

The Ravens have tabbed 28 players in the first round. These picks have earned 66 combined Pro Bowls, multiple POTY Awards, an NFL MVP honor, two Super Bowl MVPs and three HOF selections.

RAVENS ALL-TIME FIRST-ROUND DRAFT PICKS

Year	Name	Pick	Pro Bowls
1996	T Jonathan Ogden * –	4	11
1996	LB Ray Lewis + + ~ –	26	13
1997	LB Peter Boulware *	4	4
1998	CB Duane Starks	10	
1999	CB Chris McAlister	10	3
2000	RB Jamal Lewis * =	5	1
2000	WR Travis Taylor	10	
2001	TE Todd Heap	31	2
2002	S Ed Reed * + –	24	9
2003	OLB Terrell Suggs * +	10	7
2003	QB Kyle Boller	19	
2005	WR Mark Clayton *	22	
2006	DT Haloti Ngata *	12	5
2007	G Ben Grubbs *	29	2
2008	QB Joe Flacco ^ ~	18	
2009	T Michael Oher *	23	
2011	CB Jimmy Smith	27	
2013	S Matt Elam	32	
2014	LB C.J. Mosley *	17	4
2015	WR Breshad Perriman	26	
2016	T Ronnie Stanley	6	1
2017	CB Marlon Humphrey	16	2
2018	TE Hayden Hurst	25	
2018	QB Lamar Jackson %	32	2
2019	WR Marquise Brown	25	
2020	ILB Patrick Queen *	28	
2021	WR Rashod Bateman	27	
2021	OLB Odafe Oweh*	31	

% NFL MVP ~ Super Bowl MVP + Defensive Player of the Year
= Offensive Player of the Year – Pro Football Hall of Fame
* All-Rookie Team ^ NFL Rookie of the Year (Fan Vote)

2022 RAVENS DRAFT GUIDE

"Three guarantees in life: Death, taxes and the Ravens ruling the draft." – Adam Schein, NFL.com

DRAFT DETAILS

• The 87th annual NFL Draft will take place April 28-30 in Las Vegas. The main stage will be housed adjacent to Caesars Forum, while the NFL Draft Red Carpet will be held on a stage constructed on the famed fountains of the Bellagio Hotel.

• A select number of player prospects will take the stage in Vegas, while fans, media, NFL Network, ESPN and ABC crews will be onsite to broadcast the event. Building on the success of the past two drafts, additional prospects will also participate in festivities remotely from their homes around the country.

DATES/TIMES, FANS & PICKS

• Round 1: Thursday, April 28 at 8 p.m. ET
• Rounds 2-3: Friday, April 29 at 7 p.m. ET
• Rounds 4-7: Saturday, April 30 at 12 p.m. ET

• The NFL Draft Experience, the NFL's interactive football theme park for fans, will take place at the heart of the Las Vegas Strip, with Draft Experience and the Draft Theater located behind the High Roller at the LINQ Promenade.

• As of April 24, the Ravens own 10 picks in the 2022 NFL Draft, with nine of those choices in the first four rounds. Baltimore has one first-, one second-, two third-, five fourth- and one sixth-round picks.

DEVIN DUVERNAY
3rd Round: 2020

2021 First-Team All-Pro & Pro Bowler

"The thing about Eric [DeCosta] is he's highly intelligent. But on top of that, he was very eager and remains that way – eager to learn, listen, look, watch what other people do. Seems like people who have that ability tend to move forward in whatever profession they're in."

– Iowa head coach & former Ravens assistant Kirk Ferentz

ALL-TIME DRAFT PICK BREAKDOWN

(26 Ravens Drafts - 219 Picks)

Schools w/ Most Selections ..Alabama (11) & Oklahoma (11)
Offensive Players Selected..... 118
Defensive Players Selected 98
Specialists Selected 3
First-Round Offensive Players 15
First-Round Defensive Players..... 13
Homegrown Pro Bowl Players..... 26
First-Team All-Pro Players 17
Hall of Famers ...3 (Jonathan Ogden, Ray Lewis, Ed Reed)
NFL MVP ..... 1 (Lamar Jackson)
Defensive POY.....3 (R. Lewis - twice, E. Reed, T. Suggs)
Offensive POY ..... 1 (Jamal Lewis)
Defensive ROY..... 2 (Peter Boulware, Terrell Suggs)
Super Bowl MVP..... 2 (Ray Lewis, Joe Flacco)

DRAFT SELECTIONS BY POSITION

QB	13	DT	16
RB	16	CB	20
FB	5	LB	20
WR	33	OLB/DE	25
TE	14	S	17
T	11	P	2
G	20	K	0
C	6	LS	1

Many standout players originally drafted by the Ravens have gone on to earn long-term and lucrative second contracts with other teams. Below is a list of such players drafted since 2010.

Draft Pick (Year)	New FA Team / Reported Contract
DT Arthur Jones ('10)	Colts / 5 years, $33 million
WR Torrey Smith ('11)	49ers / 5 years, $40 million
OLB Pernell McPhee ('11)	Bears / 5 years, $38.75 million
QB Tyrod Taylor ('11)*	Bills / 2 years (6-year ext.), $92 million
G Kelechi Osemele ('12)**	Raiders / 5 years, $58.5 million
FB Kyle Juszczyk ('13)*****	49ers / 4 years, $21 million
T Rick Wagner ('13)	Lions / 5 years, $47.5 million
C Ryan Jensen ('13)*	Bucs / 4 years, $42 million
LB C.J. Mosley ('14)	Jets / 5 years, $85 million
OLB Za'Darius Smith ('15)**	Packers / 4 years, $66 million
OLB Matthew Judon ('16)*	Patriots / 4 years, $56 million

* Pro Bowls with new team

RAVENS PICKS BY SCHOOL

Alabama 11, Arizona 2, Arizona State 2, Auburn 1, Ball State 1, Baylor 1, Boise State 1, Bowling Green 1, BYU 2, California 2, Cal Poly 1, Central Florida 3, Central Missouri State 1, Cincinnati 2, Coastal Carolina 1, Colorado 3, Colorado State 1, Colorado State - Pueblo 1, Delaware 3, East Carolina 2, Eastern Washington 1, Elon 1, Ferris State 1, Florida 4, Florida International 1, Florida State 3, Georgia 3, Georgia Tech 5, Grand Valley State 1, Harvard 1, Houston 1, Illinois 1, Indiana 2, Iowa 3, Iowa State 1, Kansas State 2, Kentucky 3, Louisiana Tech 2, Louisville 4, LSU 1, Maryland 3, Miami (FL) 6, Michigan 5, Minnesota 3, Mississippi 1, Mississippi State 2, Missouri Southern State 1, Montana 1, Morehouse 1, Navy 1, Nebraska 2, New Mexico 2, New Mexico State 2, Nicholls State 1, Norfolk State 1, North Carolina 1, Northern Arizona 1, Northwestern 1, Northwestern State 1, Notre Dame 8, Ohio State 5, Ohio University 1, Oklahoma 11, Oklahoma State 2, Oregon 4, Oregon State 2, Penn State 5, Rutgers 1, San Diego State 1, South Carolina 1, South Carolina State 1, Southern California 2, Southern Methodist 2, Southern Mississippi 2, Southwest Louisiana 1, Stephen F. Austin 1, Syracuse 3, Temple 2, Tennessee 4, Tennessee State 1, Texas 5, Texas A&M 3, Texas Christian 1, Texas Southern 1, Texas Tech 2, Toledo 1, Trinity International 1, UCLA 3, Utah 3, UTEP 1, Virginia 5, Virginia Tech 4, Wagner 1, Wake Forest 2, Washington State 1, Weber State 2, Western Illinois 1, Wisconsin 2, Wyoming 1

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2022 NFL FIRST-ROUND DRAFT ORDER

(as of April 24)

Pick	Team	2021 Record
1.	Jacksonville Jaguars	3-14
2.	Detroit Lions	3-13-1
3.	Houston Texans	4-13
4.	New York Jets	4-13
5.	New York Giants	4-13
6.	Carolina Panthers	5-12
7.	NY Giants (via Chi.)	4-13
8.	Atlanta Falcons	7-10
9.	Seattle Seahawks (via Den.)	7-10
10.	NY Jets (via Sea.)	4-13
11.	Washington Commanders	7-10
12.	Minnesota Vikings	8-9
13.	Houston Texans (via Cle.)	4-13
14.	**Baltimore Ravens**	**8-9**
15.	Phil. Eagles (via Mia.)	9-8
16.	New Orleans Saints (via Phi./Ind.)	9-8
17.	Los Angeles Chargers	9-8
18.	Philadelphia Eagles (via NO)	9-8
19.	New Orleans Saints (via Phi.)	9-8
20.	Pittsburgh Steelers	9-7-1
21.	New England Patriots	10-7
22.	Green Bay Packers (via LV)	13-4
23.	Arizona Cardinals	11-6
24.	Dallas Cowboys	12-5
25.	Buffalo Bills	11-6
26.	Tennessee Titans	12-5
27.	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	13-4
28.	Green Bay Packers	13-4
29.	Kansas City Chiefs (via Mia./SF)	12-5
30.	Kansas City Chiefs	12-5
31.	Cincinnati Bengals	10-7
32.	Detroit Lions (via LAR)	3-13-1

RAVENS DRAFT PICKS UNDER CONTRACT

1st Round (7)

Name	Drafted - Year
T Ronnie Stanley	1 (6th) - 2016
CB Marlon Humphrey	1 (16th) - 2017
QB Lamar Jackson	1b (32nd) - 2018
WR Marquise Brown	1 (25th) - 2019
LB Patrick Queen	1 (28th) - 2020
WR Rashad Bateman	1a (27th) - 2021
OLB Odafe Oweh	1b (31st) - 2021

2nd Round (2)

OLB Tyus Bowser	2 (47th) - 2017
RB J.K. Dobbins	2 (55th) - 2020

3rd Round (8)

TE Mark Andrews	3b (86th) - 2018
OLB Jaylon Ferguson	3a (85th) - 2019
DT Justin Madubuike	3a (71st) - 2020
WR Devin Duvernay	3b (92nd) - 2020
LB Malik Harrison	3c (98th) - 2020
G/T Tyre Phillips	3d (106th) - 2020
G Ben Cleveland	3a (94th) - 2021
DB Brandon Stephens	3b (104th) - 2021

4th Round (4)

RB Justice Hill	4a (113th) - 2019
G Ben Powers	4b (123rd) - 2019
CB Iman Marshall	4c (127th) - 2019
WR Tylan Wallace	4 (131st) - 2021

5th Round (4)

TE Nick Boyle	5a (171st) - 2015
DT Broderick Washington	5 (170th) - 2020
OLB Daelin Hayes	5b (171st) - 2021
FB/TE Ben Mason	5c (184th) - 2021

6th Round (3)

P Sam Koch	6a (203rd) - 2006
S Chuck Clark	6 (186th) - 2017
WR/RS James Proche II	6 (201st) - 2020

7th Round (1)

S Geno Stone	7 (219th) - 2020

TIMING OF THE ROUNDS

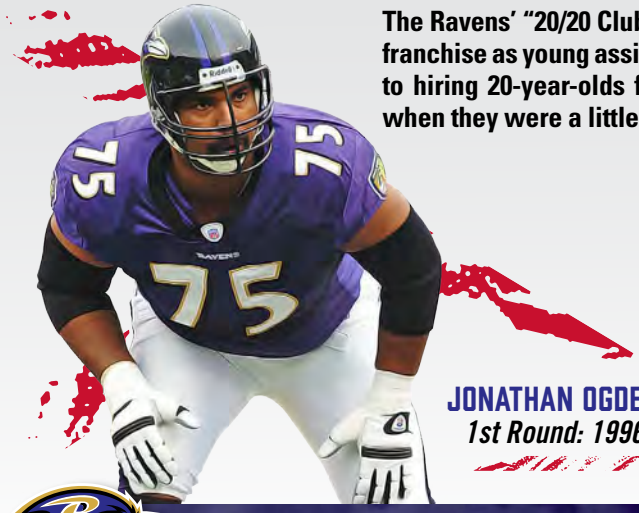
- The 2021 NFL Draft's first round kicked off at 8:15 p.m. ET and was completed at 11:59 p.m. ET (3 hours, 44 minutes).
- Longest first round since 1967: 2007 (6 hours, 8 minutes)
- Shortest first round since 1967: 1972 (2 hours)
- As first implemented in 2008, teams are allowed 10 minutes to draft in the first round, 7 minutes in the second, 5 minutes in the third-sixth and 4 minutes in the seventh.

First Round: 10 minutes
Second Round: 7 minutes
Third-Sixth Rounds: 5 minutes
Seventh Round: 4 minutes

MARSHAL YANDA
3rd Round: 2007

Eight-Time Pro Bowler & All-Pro

2022 RAVENS DRAFT GUIDE



JONATHAN OGDEN
1st Round: 1996

11-Time Pro Bowler & Hall of Famer

The Ravens' "20/20 Club" includes members of the team's personnel staff who started with the franchise as young assistants and grew into evaluators with more input. The term "20/20" refers to hiring 20-year-olds for $20,000. According to Ozzie Newsome: "The guys actually started when they were a little older than 20 and for more than $20,000, but that's what we call them."

RAVENS "20/20 CLUB" GRADUATES
(Current Personnel Staff)

Name	Joined Ravens	Current Title
George Kokinis	1991 (w/ Browns)	Dir. of Player Personnel
Eric DeCosta	1996	EVP & General Manager
Joe Hortiz	1998	Dir. of Player Personnel
Mark Azevedo	2005	Asst. Dir. of College & Pro Pers.
David Blackburn	2007	National Scout
Andrew Raphael	2013	National Scout
Brandon Berning	2015	Midwest/SW Area Scout
Joey Cleary	2015	Southeast Area Scout
Corey Frazier	2017	West Coast Area Scout
"Q" Attenoukon	2017	Pro & College Scout
Patrick McDonough	2018	Pro & College Scout
Chas Stallard	2018	Southwest Area Scout

"Eric DeCosta works hard and does a great job. He's been with this organization for a long time. ... Eric helped build a Super Bowl winner, all under the leadership of Ozzie Newsome, who is a Hall of Fame player and a Hall of Fame GM." – *Mel Kiper Jr., ESPN*

COMPENSATORY PICKS

Under the rules for compensatory selections, a team losing more or better compensatory free agents than it acquires in the previous year is eligible to receive compensatory picks.

Compensatory free agents are determined by a formula based on salary, playing time and postseason honors. The formula was developed by the NFL Management Council. Not every free agent lost or signed by a club is covered by this formula. No club may receive more than four compensatory picks in any one year.

In addition to the 32 compensatory selections, seven special compensatory picks were awarded to teams as part of an initiative that provides the prior employer-club of a minority employee who has been hired by another club as its head coach or primary football executive (GM) to receive compensation in the form of a third-round draft pick.

Most Compensatory Picks for UFAs Lost / Since 1994

1. Baltimore 55
2. Dallas 49
3. Green Bay 47
4. New England 46
5. Los Angeles Rams 43

2022 NFL COMPENSATORY PICKS

Round	Selection	Team
3	33-97	Detroit
3	34-98	New Orleans
3	35-99*	Cleveland
3	36-100*	Baltimore
3	37-101*	New Orleans
3	38-102*	San Francisco
3	39-103*	Kansas City
3	40-104*	LA Rams
3	41-105*	San Francisco
4	33-138	Pittsburgh
4	34-139	Baltimore
4	35-140	Green Bay
4	36-141	Baltimore
4	37-142	LA Rams
4	38-143	Tennessee
5	33-176	Dallas
5	34-177	Detroit
5	35-178	Dallas
5	36-179	Indianapolis
6	33-211	LARams
6	34-212	LA Rams
6	35-213	Atlanta
6	36-214	LA Chargers
6	37-215	Arizona
6	38-216	Indianapolis
6	39-217	Detroit
6	40-218	LA Rams
6	41-219	Tennessee
6	42-220	San Francisco
6	43-221	San Francisco
7	33-254	LA Chargers
7	34-255	LA Chargers
7	35-256	Arizona
7	36-257	Arizona
7	37-258	Green Bay
7	38-259	Kansas City
7	39-260	LA Chargers
7	40-261	Tampa Bay
7	41-262	San Francisco

* minority HC/GM hiring compensatory initiative

SAM KOCH
6th Round (comp.): 2006

2015 Pro Bowler

RAVENS ALL-TIME DRAFT CHOICES

1996

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1a	4	G/T	Jonathan Ogden	UCLA
1b	26	LB	Ray Lewis	Miami
2b	55	CB	DeRon Jenkins	Tennessee
5b	153	WR	Jermaine Lewis	Maryland
6a	172	LB	Dexter Daniels	Florida
6b	186	WR	James Roe	Norfolk State
7b	238	QB	Jon Stark	Trinity Intl.

Obtained second 1st-round choice (26) from SF along with 49ers 1995 1st-, 3rd- and 4th- (from KC) round picks for Cle. 1995 1st-round pick (obtained from Atl. for RB Eric Metcalf and Cle. original 1995 1st-round pick). First 2nd-round choice (35) was traded to TB for TE Harold Bishop. Obtained second 2nd-round choice (55) from Den. for 1996 3rd-, 4th- and 7th-round picks. First 5th-round choice (136) was traded to NO for DB Reginald Jones. Obtained second 5th-round pick (153) from Atl. for G Gene Williams. Third 5th-round choice (157) obtained from Phi. to Dal. for 1997 4th-round pick. Obtained second 6th-round choice (186) from Jax. (supplemental) along with Jaguars 1995 5th-round pick for Cle. 1995 4th-round pick. Obtained second 7th-round choice (238) from Phi. for DL Ronnie Dixon.

1997

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	4	LB	Peter Boulware	Florida State
2a	34	LB	Jamie Sharper	Virginia
2b	58	S	Kim Herring	Penn State
3	64	RB	Jay Graham	Tennessee
4b	118	LB	Tyrus McCloud	Louisville
5	134	C	Jeff Mitchell	Florida
6a	167	FB	Steve Lee	Indiana
6b	194	LB	Cornell Brown*	Virginia Tech
7a	205	DE	Chris Ward	Kentucky
7b	234	QB	Wally Richardson*	Penn State
7c	236	S	Ralph Staten*	Alabama
7d	238	DT	Leland Taylor*	Louisville

Obtained second 2nd-round choice (58) from Den. for T Tony Jones. First 4th-round choice (100) was traded to Atl. through Sea. for G Jeff Blackshear. Obtained second 4th-round pick from Dal. for 1996 5th-round pick (obtained from Phi.).

1998

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	10	CB	Duane Starks	Miami
2	42	WR	Patrick Johnson	Oregon
5a	124	DT	Martin Chase	Oklahoma
5b	133	S	Ryan Sutter	Colorado
6a	154	LB	Ron Rogers	Georgia Tech
6b	164	T	Sammy Williams	Oklahoma
7b	241	TE	Cam Quayle*	Weber State

Traded 3rd-round choice (71) along with 1998 4th-round pick (93) to Ind. for QB Jim Harbaugh and Colts 1998 4th-round pick. Traded first 4th-round choice (from Ind.) to Ind. for 1998 4th-, 5th- and 6th-round picks. Traded second 4th-round pick (104) to TB for 1999 3rd-round pick. Traded first 7th-round choice (199) to Atl. through Pit. for OL Bernard Dafney.

*** Compensatory Pick**

1999

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	10	CB	Chris McAlister	Arizona
4a	105	WR	Brandon Stokley	SW Louisiana
4b	129	G	Edwin Mulitalo*	Arizona
7	216	S	Anthony Poindexter	Virginia

Traded 2nd-round choice (42) to Atl. for Atl. 2000 1st-round pick. Traded 3rd-round pick (72) to Det. along with a conditional 2000 5th-round pick for QB Scott Mitchell. Traded 5th-round choice (145) to STL along with 2000 7th-round pick for QB Tony Banks. Traded first 6th-round choice (180) to NE for TE Lovett Purnell. Traded second 6th-round choice (185, from Ind.) to Min. for OL Everett Lindsay.

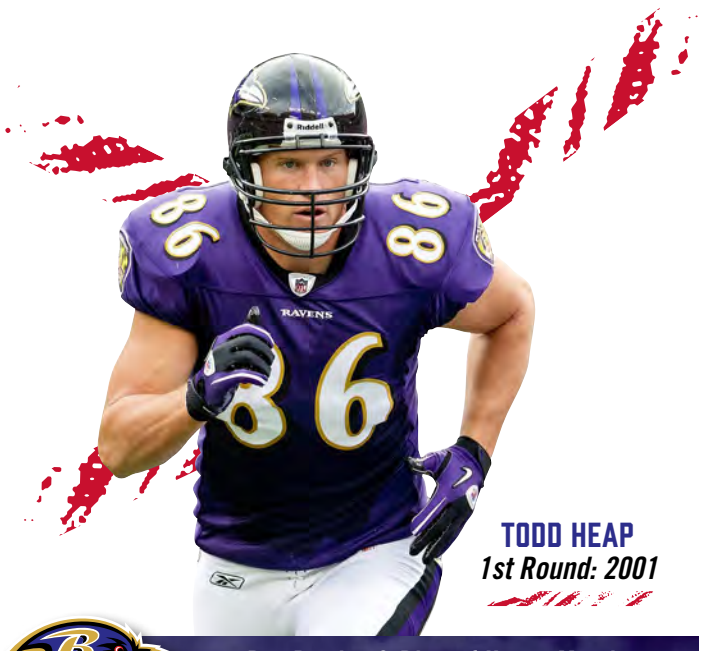
2000

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1a	5	RB	Jamal Lewis	Tennessee
1b	10	WR	Travis Taylor	Florida
3	75	QB	Chris Redman	Louisville
5	148	OL	Richard Mercier	Miami
6a	186	DE	Adalius Thomas	So. Mississippi
6b	191	DT	Cedric Woodard	Texas

Acquired first 1st-round pick (5) from Atl. for a 1999 2nd-round choice.

2001

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	31	TE	Todd Heap	Arizona State
2	62	DB	Gary Baxter	Baylor
3	92	C/G	Casey Rabach	Wisconsin
4	126	LB	Edgerton Hartwell	W. Illinois
5	161	RB	Chris Barnes	New Mexico State
6	194	LS	Joe Maese	New Mexico
7	231	DE	Dwayne Missouri	Northwestern



TODD HEAP
1st Round: 2001

Pro Bowler & Ring of Honor Member

RAVENS ALL-TIME DRAFT CHOICES

2002

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	24	S	Ed Reed	Miami
2	52	DE	Anthony Weaver	Notre Dame
4a	112	P	Dave Zastudil	Ohio
4b	123	WR	Ron Johnson	Minnesota
5	155	TE	Terry Jones	Alabama
6a	195	DB	Lamont Brightful	E. Washington
6b	206	WR	Javin Hunter*	Notre Dame
6c	207	RB	Chester Taylor*	Toledo
6d	209	S	Chad Williams*	So. Mississippi
7	236	QB	Wes Pate	Stephen F. Austin

Traded 3rd-round choice (96) to Den. for 4th- (112) and 5th-round (155) picks (Bal. traded its 5th [159] to Was. to draft Weaver).

2003

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1a	10	LB	Terrell Suggs	Arizona State
1b	19	QB	Kyle Boller	California
3	77	RB	Musa Smith	Georgia
4a	109	LB	Jarret Johnson	Alabama
4b	134	FB	Ovie Mughelli*	Wake Forest
5a	146	DT	Aubrayo Franklin	Tennessee
5b	173	T	Tony Pashos*	Illinois
6	182	S	Gerome Sapp	Notre Dame
7a	223	TE	Trent Smith	Oklahoma
7b	250	C	Mike Mabry*	Central Florida
7c	258	S	Antwoine Sanders*	Utah

Traded 2nd-round choice (41) to NE with 2004 1st-round pick for NE's 1st-round pick (19/Boller).

2004

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
2	51	DT	Dwan Edwards	Oregon State
3	82	WR	Devard Darling	Washington St.
5	153	OLB	Roderick Green	Cen. Missouri St.
6a	187	QB	Josh Harris	Bowling Green
6b	199	WR	Clarence Moore*	N. Arizona
7a	244	WR	Derek Abney*	Kentucky
7b	246	G	Brian Rimpf*	East Carolina

Traded 1st-round pick to NE for Pats' 2003 1st-round selection (19) to draft QB Kyle Boller. Traded 4th-round pick (120) to Jax. for WR Kevin Johnson.

*** Compensatory Pick**

2005

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	22	WR	Mark Clayton	Oklahoma
2a	53	OLB	Dan Cody	Oklahoma
2b	64	T	Adam Terry	Syracuse
4	124	G/C	Jason Brown	North Carolina
5	158	FB	Justin Green	Montana
6	213	QB	Derek Anderson*	Oregon State
7	234	LB	Mike Smith	Texas Tech

Obtained second 2nd-round choice (64) from NE in exchange for Ravens 3rd- (84) and 6th-round (195) picks in 2005 and a 3rd-round selection in 2006.

2006

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	12	DT	Haloti Ngata	Oregon
2	56	C/G	Chris Chester	Oklahoma
3	87	CB	David Pittman	NW State
4a	111	WR	Demetrius Williams	Oregon
4b	132	RB	P.J. Daniels*	Georgia Tech
5a	146	S	Dawan Landry	Georgia Tech
5b	166	TE	Quinn Sypniewski*	Colorado
6a	203	P	Sam Koch*	Nebraska
6b	208	CB	Derrick Martin*	Wyoming
7	219	LB/DE	Ryan LaCasse	Syracuse

Obtained 1st-round choice (12) from Cle. for Baltimore's 1st-round (13) and 6th-round (181) picks. Obtained 2nd-round (56) and 3rd-round (87) choices from the N.Y. Giants for the Ravens' 2nd-round pick (44).

2007

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	29	G	Ben Grubbs	Auburn
3a	74	WR	Yamon Figurs	Kansas State
3b	86	G/T	Marshal Yanda	Iowa
4a	134	OLB	Antwan Barnes*	Florida Intl.
4b	137	FB	Le'Ron McClain*	Alabama
5	174	QB	Troy Smith*	Ohio State
6	207	ILB	Prescott Burgess*	Michigan

Obtained first 3rd-round pick (74) and a 4th-round choice (101) from Det. for the Ravens' 2nd-round (61) pick. Acquired second 3rd-round choice (86) from Jax. for 4th-round (101), 5th-round (166) and 6th-round (203) picks.

2008

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	18	QB	Joe Flacco	Delaware
2	55	RB	Ray Rice	Rutgers
3a	71	ILB	Tavares Gooden	Miami
3b	86	S	Tom Zbikowski	Notre Dame
3c	99	T	Oniel Cousins*	UTEP
4a	106	WR	Marcus Smith	New Mexico
4b	133	G/T	David Hale*	Weber State
6	206	S	Haruki Nakamura*	Cincinnati
7a	215	WR	Justin Harper	Virginia Tech
7b	240	RB	Allen Patrick*	Oklahoma

Obtained 1st-round (18) choice from Houston for the Ravens' 1st-round (26) and 3rd-round (89) picks that Baltimore received from Jacksonville, plus the Ravens' 6th-round (173) choice.

RAVENS ALL-TIME DRAFT CHOICES

Baltimore began the day with the 8th-overall pick and traded it to Jacksonville for the Jaguars' 1st-round (26), both 3rd-round (71 and 89) and 4th-round (125) selections. Obtained 2nd-round (55) choice from Seattle for the Ravens' 2nd-round (38) pick. Acquired second 3rd-round (86) choice, along with 2nd-round pick (Rice, 55) from Seattle for the Ravens' 2nd-round (38) pick. Traded 4th-round (125) choice to Oakland for CB Fabian Washington.

Note: In 2007, the Ravens used a 5th-round pick in the July Supplemental Draft to tab T Jared Gaither.

2009

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	23	T	Michael Oher	Mississippi
2	57	LB/DE	Paul Kruger	Utah
3	88	DB	Lardarius Webb	Nicholls State
5a	137	LB	Jason Phillips	TCU
5b	149	TE	Davon Drew	East Carolina
6	185	RB	Cedric Peerman	Virginia

Obtained 1st-round choice (23) from NE for the Ravens' 1st-round (26) and 5th-round (162) picks. Acquired two 5th-round choices (137 and 141) from NE for the Ravens' 4th-round (123) pick. Obtained 5th-round (149) and 6th-round (185) choices from Denver for the 5th-round (141) pick.

2010

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
2a	43	LB	Sergio Kindle	Texas
2b	57	DT	Terrence Cody	Alabama
3	70	TE	Ed Dickson	Oregon
4	114	TE	Dennis Pitta	BYU
5a	156	WR	David Reed	Utah
5b	157	DT	Arthur Jones	Syracuse
6	194	T	Ramon Harewood	Morehouse

Acquired first 2nd-round (43), 3rd-round (70) and 4th-round (114) choices from Den. for the Ravens' 1st-round (25) pick. Traded original 3rd-round (88) and 4th-round (123) choices to Ari. for WR Anquan Boldin and a 5th-round pick (157).

2011

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	27	CB	Jimmy Smith	Colorado
2	58	WR	Torrey Smith	Maryland
3	85	T	Jah Reid	Central Florida
4	123	WR	Tandon Doss	Indiana
5a	164	CB	Chykie Brown*	Texas
5b	165	DE	Pernell McPhee*	Mississippi State
6	180	QB	Tyrod Taylor	Virginia Tech
7	225	RB	Anthony Allen	Georgia Tech

Traded 3rd-round pick (90) and a 6th-round pick (191) to Phi. in exchange for Eagles' 85th selection to acquire Reid.

2012

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
2a	35	OLB	Courtney Upshaw	Alabama
2b	60	G/T	Kelechi Osemele	Iowa State
3	84	RB	Bernard Pierce	Temple
4a	98	G/C	Gino Gradkowski	Delaware
4b	130	S	Christian Thompson*	South Carolina St.
5	169	CB/RS	Asa Jackson*	Cal Poly
6	198	WR	Tommy Streeter	Miami
7	236	DE	DeAngelo Tyson	Georgia

Obtained 2nd-round pick (35) and 4th-round choice (98) in a trade with Min. in exchange for the Ravens' 1st-round (29) selection. Obtained the 84th-overall pick in a trade with Atl. for the Ravens' 3rd-round (91) and 5th-round (164) selections.

2013

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	32	S	Matt Elam	Florida
2	56	LB	Arthur Brown	Kansas State
3	94	DT	Brandon Williams	Missouri Southern St.
4a	129	OLB	John Simon	Ohio State
4b	130	FB	Kyle Juszczyk*	Harvard
5	168	G/T	Rick Wagner*	Wisconsin
6a	200	DE	Kapron Lewis-Moore	Notre Dame
6b	203	C	Ryan Jensen*	Colorado St.-Pueblo
7a	238	WR	Aaron Mellette	Elon
7b	247	CB	Marc Anthony*	California

Obtained 56th pick in a trade with Seattle for the Ravens' 2nd-round pick (62nd), 5th-round choice (165th) and 6th-round selection (199th).

2014

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	17	LB	C.J. Mosley	Alabama
2	48	DT	Timmy Jernigan	Florida State
3a	79	S	Terrence Brooks	Florida State
3b	99	TE	Crockett Gillmore*	Colorado State
4a	134	DE	Brent Urban*	Virginia
4b	138	RB	Lorenzo Taliaferro*	Coastal Carolina
5	175	G/C	John Urschel*	Penn State
6	194	QB	Keith Wenning	Ball State
7	218	WR/RS	Michael Campanaro	Wake Forest

Acquired 218th pick from Cle. in exchange for a 2015 draft choice.

*** Compensatory Pick**

RAVENS ALL-TIME DRAFT CHOICES

2015

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	26	WR	Breshad Perriman	Central Florida
2	55	TE	Maxx Williams	Minnesota
3	90	DT	Carl Davis	Iowa
4a	122	OLB	Za'Darius Smith	Kentucky
4b	125	RB	Javorius "Buck" Allen	Southern Cal
4c	136	CB	Tray Walker*	Texas Southern
5a	171	TE	Nick Boyle*	Delaware
5b	176	G	Robert Myers*	Tennessee State
6	204	WR	Darren Waller	Georgia Tech

Acquired 55th choice from Arizona in exchange for the Ravens' 58th (second round) and 158th (fifth round) picks.

2016

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	6	T	Ronnie Stanley	Notre Dame
2	42	OLB	Kamalei Correa	Boise State
3	70	DE	Bronson Kaufusi	Brigham Young
4a	104	CB	Tavon Young	Temple
4b	107	WR	Chris Moore	Cincinnati
4c	130	G/T	Alex Lewis	Nebraska
4d	132	DT	Willie Henry*	Michigan
4e	134	RB	Kenneth Dixon*	Louisiana Tech
5	146	OLB	Matthew Judon	Grand Valley State
6a	182	WR/RS	Keenan Reynolds	Navy
6b	209	CB	Maurice Canady*	Virginia

Ravens traded the 36th-overall choice to Jacksonville in exchange for the draft's 38th pick and a fifth-round pick (146th overall). Traded the 38th pick to Miami in exchange for the 42nd-overall pick and a fourth-round pick (107th overall).

2017

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	16	CB	Marlon Humphrey	Alabama
2	47	OLB	Tyus Bowser	Houston
3	74	DE	Chris Wormley	Michigan
3	78	OLB	Tim Williams	Alabama
4	122	G	Nico Siragusa	San Diego State
5	159	G/T	Jermaine Eluemunor	Texas A&M
6	186	S	Chuck Clark	Virginia Tech

2018

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1a	25	TE	Hayden Hurst	South Carolina
1b	32	QB	Lamar Jackson	Louisville
3a	83	T	Orlando Brown Jr.	Oklahoma
3b	86	TE	Mark Andrews	Oklahoma
4a	118	CB	Anthony Averett	Alabama
4b	122	LB	Kenny Young	UCLA
4c	132	WR	Jaleel Scott	New Mexico State
5	162	WR	Jordan Lasley	UCLA
6a	190	S	DeShon Elliott	Texas
6b	212	T	Greg Senat	Wagner
6c	215	C	Bradley Bozeman*	Alabama
7	238	DT	Zach Sieler	Ferris State

Ravens traded the 16th-overall pick (first round) and their fifth-round selection (154 overall) to the Bills for the 22nd pick in the first round and 65th-overall pick (third round). Baltimore traded the 22nd-overall selection and the 215th pick (sixth round) to Tennessee in exchange for the 25th-overall selection (used on Hayden Hurst) and the 125th pick (fourth round). Ravens traded picks in the second (52nd) and fourth (118th) rounds, as well as their 2019 second-round pick, to Philadelphia for the No. 32 overall pick (used on Lamar Jackson) and the Eagles' 2018 fourth-rounder (132nd). Ravens traded the 75th-overall pick to Kansas City in exchange for the 86th and 122nd picks. Baltimore traded the 152nd pick to Tennessee for the 162nd and 215th picks. Ravens traded the 65th pick to Oakland in exchange for the 75th-, 152nd- and 212th-overall selections. Traded the 152nd pick to Tennessee for the 162nd- and 215th-overall selections.

2019

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	25	WR	Marquise Brown	Oklahoma
3a	85	OLB	Jaylon Ferguson	Louisiana Tech
3b	93	WR	Miles Boykin	Notre Dame
4a	113	RB	Justice Hill	Oklahoma State
4b	123	G	Ben Powers	Oklahoma
4c	127	CB	Iman Marshall	Southern Cal
5	160	DT	Daylon Mack	Texas A&M
6	197	QB	Trace McSorley	Penn State

Ravens traded the 22nd-overall pick to Philadelphia in exchange for the 25th, 127th (fourth round) and 197th (sixth round) picks. Traded picks 102 (third round), 191 (sixth round) and 193 (sixth round) to Minnesota for the 93rd-overall pick (third round).

*** Compensatory Pick**

RAVENS ALL-TIME DRAFT CHOICES

2020

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1	28	LB	Patrick Queen	LSU
2	55	RB	J.K. Dobbins	Ohio State
3a	71	DT	Justin Madubuike	Texas A&M
3b	92	WR	Devin Duvernay	Texas
3c	98	LB	Malik Harrison	Ohio State
3d	106	G	Tyre Phillips*	Mississippi State
4	143	G	Ben Bredeson*	Michigan
5	170	DL	Broderick Washington	Texas Tech
6	201	WR	James Proche II	SMU
7	219	S	Geno Stone	Iowa

Ravens traded their 60th-overall (second round) and 129th-overall (fourth round) picks to New England in exchange for the 71st and 98th (third round) picks. Baltimore traded its 225th-overall pick and a 2021 fifth-round pick to Minnesota in exchange for the 201st and 219th (seventh round) picks.

2021

Rd.	Pk.	Pos.	Player	College
1a	27	WR	Rashod Bateman	Minnesota
1b	31	OLB	Odafe Oweh	Penn State
3a	94	G	Ben Cleveland	Georgia
3b	104	CB	Brandon Stephens*	Southern Methodist
4	131	WR	Tylan Wallace	Oklahoma State
5a	160	CB	Shaun Wade	Ohio State
5b	171	OLB	Daelin Hayes	Notre Dame
5c	184	TE	Ben Mason*	Michigan

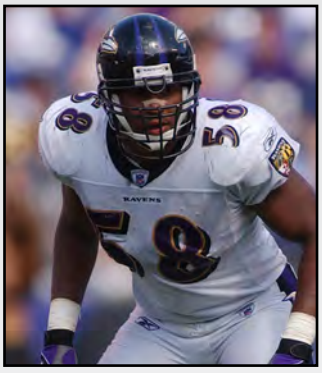
Ravens traded their 136th (fourth round) & 210th (sixth round) picks to Arizona in exchange for the 160th pick (fifth round) and a 2022 fourth-round pick.

*** Compensatory Pick**

RAVENS RING OF HONOR DRAFT PICKS

The Ravens' Ring of Honor, presented by Meritage Jewelers, salutes special inductees at M&T Bank Stadium with banners. Each member is recognized for his extraordinary contributions to the NFL, the Ravens and the Baltimore community. There are currently seven members of the Ring of Honor who were original Ravens draft choices.

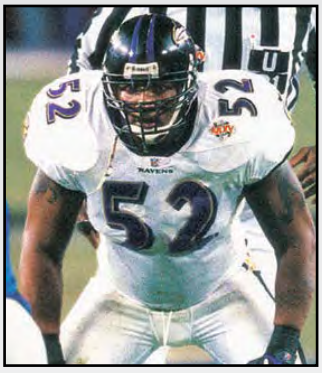
PETER BOULWARE – 2006
1997 1st-Round Pick



JONATHAN OGDEN – 2008
1996 1st-Round Pick

JAMAL LEWIS – 2012
2000 1st-Round Pick

RAY LEWIS – 2013
1996 1st-Round Pick



TODD HEAP – 2014
2001 1st-Round Pick

ED REED – 2015
2002 1st-Round Pick

HALOTI NGATA – 2021
2006 1st-Round Pick

Note: Draft picks Marshal Yanda (3rd, 2007) and Terrell Suggs (1st, 2003) will be inducted into the Ring of Honor in upcoming seasons.

RING OF HONOR
MERITAGE

MOCK DRAFTS

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

MEL KIPER JR. – ESPN.COM

Last updated: April 13, 2022

1. Jacksonville Jaguars

Aidan Hutchinson, DE, Michigan

There's really no need to overthink things here. Hutchinson is the best prospect in this class -- an edge rusher who could average 12 sacks a year for a decade -- and he plays a premier position. He could play as a stand-up outside linebacker or hand-in-the-dirt end for the Jaguars, meeting quarterbacks in the backfield with 2019 first-rounder Josh Allen.

2. Detroit Lions

Ahmad "Sauce" Gardner, CB, Cincinnati

Can I interest you in a 6-foot-3 corner with long arms and 4.41 40-yard dash speed who didn't allow a single touchdown in coverage in college? That's Gardner. The Lions have several needs and would likely jump at Aidan Hutchinson if he somehow fell here. But if they select Gardner and get something out of Jeff Okudah, the No. 3 overall pick in the 2020 draft who has played just 10 games in two seasons, they could have a much-improved secondary.

3. Houston Texans

Travon Walker, DE, Georgia

I don't think anyone outside the organization really knows what the Texans will do in Round 1. For this mock, I'm trying to think long-term with Houston, which just has to add some talent. Walker is a bit of a risk in the top 10; NFL teams are betting that his physical tools will win out over his subpar college production (9.5 sacks in three seasons). Coaches want to try to maximize that upside. There is a lot of buzz on Walker going early.

4. New York Jets

Kayvon Thibodeaux, DE, Oregon

I'm not buying a Thibodeaux drop. He might be the most talented prospect in this class. The Jets have to add some juice to their pass rush, and this is the spot to do it. It's also not out of the question that they take a receiver here -- Drake London or Garrett Wilson? -- because their top guy might be off the board by the time they pick at No. 10.

5. New York Giants

Ikem Ekwonu, OT, NC State

If the board shakes out this way, the Giants would have to be thrilled to get their pick of the top two offensive tackles. I have Ekwonu just slightly over Evan Neal, but it's tough to go wrong with either -- they are my Nos. 2 and 3 prospects in this class. Ekwonu answered every question about his pass-protection ability last season. If left tackle Andrew Thomas keeps improving, these two could form one of the NFL's best bookend pairings.

6. Carolina Panthers

Malik Willis, QB, Liberty

Doesn't Carolina coach Matt Rhule have to take a swing on a quarterback here? The Panthers don't have second- or third-round picks. Rhule will enter the season on the hot seat, and this is his chance to buy some time with a high-ceiling rookie signal-caller. Willis is going to make some mistakes, but he will be fun to watch. He might nail a perfect deep ball to Robby Anderson and then throw a pick in the red zone on the next play. But he's going to keep getting better with time, and Carolina does have some skill position talent to help him.

7. New York Giants (via CHI)

Jermaine Johnson II, DE, Florida State

The Giants can get their tackle at No. 5 and then focus on their defense, which allowed 4.7 yards per play last season (31st in the NFL). Johnson had 12 sacks last season and was one of the most impressive prospects at the Senior Bowl in January. He already has a few veteran pass-rush moves and can be an instant starter. He also played a lot of outside linebacker for the Seminoles, so he will have some versatility in Don Martindale's defense. And if you're keeping track, this makes four edge rushers in the top seven picks.

8. Atlanta Falcons

Garrett Wilson, WR, Ohio State

I'm going to stick with this prediction because ... who is Marcus Mariota going to throw to next season? The Falcons just don't have any starting-caliber receivers. Wilson can run every route and beat defenders after the catch. He could be the early favorite for Rookie of the Year if he lands here -- he'd get a bunch of targets. Atlanta will likely be tracking the edge rushers closely, but there isn't value at this point on my board.

9. Seattle Seahawks (via DEN)

Evan Neal, OT, Alabama

This is another team that ends up with an ideal scenario. Veteran left tackle Duane Brown is still unsigned, so Neal could start from Day 1. It just makes too much sense. I'm not a huge believer that Drew Lock will be Seattle's quarterback answer for the long term, but Neal could be a stalwart on the left side for years to come.

10. New York Jets (via SEA)

Drake London, WR, USC

If the Jets can pull this off -- a top-tier receiver here and a high-upside edge rusher at No. 4 -- shouldn't they be considered one of the most improved teams of the offseason? I like what they've done, and they haven't had to break the bank. Of course, that doesn't mean they're going to be AFC East contenders just yet. London is a 6-foot-4 target who will dominate in the red zone and pull down 50-50 balls to boost Zach Wilson's completion percentage.

11. Washington Commanders

Kyle Hamilton, S, Notre Dame

Hamilton has been dinged a little bit because of his 40 time, which was a 4.59 at the combine and a little slower at his pro day. He's a fantastic player, but he doesn't have rare physical tools, which means he could fall out of the top 10. I would want him on my team. At 6-foot-4, he could play multiple positions, from center fielder to box linebacker. He would make plays for a Washington defense that disappointed in 2021.

12. Minnesota Vikings

Derek Stingley Jr., CB, LSU

This is a great fit for both sides. The Vikings could get a corner with an elite, All-Pro ceiling and plug a hole, while Stingley could join a team with a few other former LSU stars (Justin Jefferson, Danielle Hunter, Patrick Peterson). The concern about Stingley is that his best tape is from 2019, when he starred as a true freshman. Can he return to form in the NFL -- and stay healthy? That's a risk teams will have to consider. Still, I feel better making that bet at No. 12 than if I were picking in the top five.

13. Houston Texans (via CLE)

Charles Cross, OT, Mississippi State

I'm going to stick to my board here, and since my top 11 prospects have all been picked (plus Malik Willis), I'll move on to No. 12. Cross is a superb pass-blocker who needs some refinement in the run game -- because he just didn't get the reps to do so while playing for Mike Leach. If the Texans are going to give Davis Mills the 2022 season to prove he's their guy at quarterback, Mills needs a better right tackle. That could be Cross.

14. Baltimore Ravens

Trent McDuffie, CB, Washington

The Ravens could go in several directions here, including offensive tackle (will Ronnie Stanley ever be the same again?) and defensive end (Calais Campbell is back, but he's 35). When I look at this depth chart, though, I see corner depth as an issue. McDuffie has the versatility to play outside and in the slot, and he also will wrap up and bring down ball carriers in the run game. He's physical.

15. Philadelphia Eagles (via MIA)

Chris Olave, WR, Ohio State

After last week's trade with the Saints, the Eagles now have one fewer first-round pick, but you have to think they'll take a receiver with one of them, right? If they're committed to using 2022 as an evaluation year for Jalen Hurts, they should give him the tools to succeed. Olave had seven touchdowns out of the slot last season, but he can move outside, too, and use his 4.39 40 speed to get open. Hurts would love throwing to him and DeVonta Smith, with Dallas Goedert working the middle of the field.

16. New Orleans Saints (via PHI/IND)

Trevor Penning, OT, Northern Iowa

Speaking of the Saints, I have a hard time believing they traded picks with the Eagles for the purpose of taking a quarterback. Why wouldn't they try to move up higher? (Unless there's another move to come?) It's possible they think they are NFC contenders this season and could be put over the edge with two more starters. With that in mind, here's a tackle who could replace Terron Armstead on the left side. Penning is a nasty, physical blocker who is ready to play immediately.

17. Los Angeles Chargers

Jordan Davis, DT, Georgia

The Chargers need a right tackle, but with Trevor Penning off the board, I don't feel great about the value here. In fact, my next tackle in this mock doesn't go off the board until No. 42. Let's move instead to another need for L.A. and fill it with Davis, who at 6-foot-6 and 341 pounds is used to being a hole-filler. He has unique physical tools for his size, and he makes everyone around him better because of the space he eats. This is how Brandon Staley's defense can level up in 2022.

18. Philadelphia Eagles (via NO)

Nakobe Dean, ILB, Georgia

I see a massive void in the middle of the Eagles' front seven, and we're getting to the point in this draft in which an off-ball linebacker will be taken. I have Devin Lloyd just ahead of Dean in my rankings, but there are teams that will fall in love with Dean's intangibles. He's a tremendous teammate who was the leader of the national champs' historic defense. He's a little undersized, but he can play sideline to sideline.

19. New Orleans Saints (via PHI)

Jameson Williams, WR, Alabama

Even if Michael Thomas comes back healthy, the Saints should address wide receiver with one of their two first-round picks. Williams would have been in the discussion to be the No. 1 wideout in this class, but he tore the ACL in his left knee in the national title game in January and could miss a little time in 2022. He could be a superstar once he's healthy; he has explosive speed and was uncoverable for the Crimson Tide last season. ACL injuries aren't even close to career-ending anymore, so I don't see this as a risky pick. Williams is worth it.

20. Pittsburgh Steelers

Kenny Pickett, QB, Pitt

I'd feel much more comfortable taking Pickett here than I would in the top 10. Best-case scenario is that he becomes a Derek Carr, and his floor is an Andy Dalton, which isn't a bad quarterback by any means. Pittsburgh can win with that. Still, those two were taken in Round 2 and didn't have Round 1 expectations surrounding them. If Pickett falls into the Steelers' laps here, he'd be tough to pass up. And he has a little more upside than Mitch Trubisky.

21. New England Patriots

Devin Lloyd, ILB, Utah

I thought about a wide receiver and cornerback here, but Lloyd just feels like a Bill Belichick-type player. He's always around the ball, is a great blitzer from the middle of the defense and makes plays. The Patriots allowed 4.5 yards per carry last season, which ranked 25th in the league. This fills a void with an impact player.

22. Green Bay Packers (via LV)

Christian Watson, WR, North Dakota State

There could be a run on wide receivers in the 20s, starting with the Patriots and Packers. We know Green Bay needs one after the Davante Adams trade, but I don't think general manager Brian Gutekunst is going to force it. Watson is a riser, as teams see a 6-foot-4 receiver with 4.36 40 speed and elite measurables and think he can be a big-play threat who can grow into a better route runner. Watson averaged 20.4 yards per catch in his college career. Watson is ready to contribute for Aaron Rodgers as a rookie.

23. Arizona Cardinals

Treylon Burks, WR, Arkansas

Burks can be used in different roles -- he even ran 19 routes out of the backfield last season -- and will be dynamic after the catch. He will take screens and short passes for scores. For Arizona, this is about helping to replace Christian Kirk and getting some help for an offense that struggled when DeAndre Hopkins went down last season.

24. Dallas Cowboys

Arnold Ebiketie, DE, Penn State

Todd McShay is getting tired of me talking up Ebiketie, but I'm a fan. I wanted to find a fit for him in Round 1. The Temple transfer really improved last season, putting up 9.5 sacks. He has a powerful lower body and knows how to use his hands. The Cowboys have to find a way to replace Randy Gregory, and Ebiketie could help. They could also target a guard or wide receiver here.

25. Buffalo Bills

Daxton Hill, DB, Michigan

I just moved Hill way up on my Big Board. NFL teams love his versatility -- he played more than 550 snaps at nickelback in 2021 -- and think he could play both corner and safety. He might be a slot corner if he ends up in Buffalo, which lost Levi Wallace in free agency and has Tre'Davious White returning from an ACL tear. Andrew Booth Jr. (Clemson) and Kyler Gordon (Washington) are two other corners to keep an eye on. The Bills have one of the best rosters in the league.

26. Tennessee Titans

Jahan Dotson, WR, Penn State

The Titans need to get faster at receiver next to A.J. Brown. That's not Robert Woods' game. Dotson, who ran a 4.43 40 at the combine, caught 91 passes last season, 33 coming from the slot. He would give Ryan Tannehill more easy throws because he can scoot after the catch. Tennessee could also target the best offensive lineman available with this pick. On my board, that would be center Tyler Linderbaum (Iowa), and he could play some guard.

27. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Devonte Wyatt, DT, Georgia

The Bucs are another team that could take a guard in Round 1, but I see a fit with Wyatt, who could take Ndamukong Suh's spot next to Vita Vea. Wyatt played mostly as a 3-technique tackle for the Bulldogs, but he could play end in a 3-4 defense, too. He wasn't a super productive pass-rusher (2.5 sacks last season), but he has the physical tools that coordinators will want to mold. Cornerback could be a possibility for Tampa Bay as well.

28. Green Bay Packers

Zion Johnson, G/C, Boston College

Johnson's positional flex is impressive to teams, as he dominated as a guard last season -- he didn't allow a single pressure -- and took snaps at center at the Senior Bowl. He'd most likely play guard in Green Bay, which lost Lucas Patrick in free agency. Packers fans (and Aaron Rodgers) should be happy with this first-round haul, and the franchise has two second-round picks as well.

29. Kansas City Chiefs (via MIA/SF)

Andrew Booth Jr., CB, Clemson

The loss in free agency of cornerback Charvarius Ward shouldn't go unnoticed. He had developed into a really solid player. The Kansas City defense improved as the 2021 season went along, but it has to get deeper in the secondary. Booth is a smooth 6-foot corner with good ball skills who played both outside and in the slot in college.

30. Kansas City Chiefs

George Karlaftis, DE, Purdue

No wide receiver? Let me explain. First, the Chiefs also have two second- and two third-round picks. They could take one (or two) wide receivers with those selections. This is a deep class, and they could find better value there. And second, defensive end is a need as well. If Karlaftis is on the board, he'd be an ideal end next to Chris Jones, who does his best work from the interior. Karlaftis didn't always get home to quarterbacks last season (only 4.5 sacks), but he created pressure.

Projected trade: Jets move up for ... a center?

How about a third first-round selection from the Jets? In this scenario, with a glaring hole at center and the top guy still on the board, they deal No. 35 and a Day 3 pick to get back into Round 1. And crucially, they keep their pick at No. 38, which allows them to get more help.

The Bengals would move down just four spots and pick up an extra fourth-rounder. They signed center Ted Karras in free agency among other moves to upgrade their O-line, so their need isn't as big.

31. New York Jets (via mock trade with CIN)

Tyler Linderbaum, C, Iowa

Could Linderbaum be the Jets' new Nick Mangold? They took Mangold at pick No. 29 in 2006 and have been trying to fill that void at center since he left the team after the 2016 season. Some NFL teams are put off by Linderbaum's short arms, but just watch the tape. He has the physical traits to be an All-Pro and is exceptional as both a run and pass blocker. He's exactly what the Jets need, and this is tremendous value.

32. Detroit Lions (via LAR)

Lewis Cine, S, Georgia

The more I talk to people in the league, the more I think the Lions will stand pat on a quarterback with their three picks in the top 34. Jared Goff can be the starter in 2022, and if he struggles, chances are Detroit will be right back in the mix for the No. 1 overall pick, which it can use on a signal-caller. Cine is the fifth Georgia defender in the top 32 picks here (with more to come). He's a good cover safety who is rising after he ran a 4.37 40 at the combine.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

TODD McSHAY – ESPN.COM

Last updated: April 5, 2022

1. Jacksonville Jaguars

Aidan Hutchinson, DE, Michigan

Best player available. Big need. Perfect match. Jacksonville tied for the fifth-fewest sacks in 2021 (32), and its 27.8% pressure rate ranked No. 20 in the NFL. Hutchinson would instantly provide the Jaguars with a relentless, explosive disrupter on the edge opposite Josh Allen. There's still a chance that the Jags favor one of the top offensive tackles in the class -- NC State's Ikem Ekwonu or Alabama's Evan Neal -- even after they franchise-tagged left tackle Cam Robinson and signed guard Brandon Scherff. But I just don't see them passing on Hutchinson's ability to be a tone-setter on defense.

2. Detroit Lions

Travon Walker, DE, Georgia

Detroit struggled with its pass rush even more than Jacksonville last season, recording just 30 sacks and getting pressure on 25.9% of opponent dropbacks. Both numbers ranked in the bottom four. Walker might not have the career sack production (9.5 across 36 career games), but he has the versatility and explosion to anchor the Lions' defensive line. Detroit re-signed Charles Harris, who led the team with 7.5 sacks in 2021, and Romeo Okwara -- who had 10 in 2020 -- is returning from a torn Achilles tendon that kept him off the field for most of last year. A trio of Harris, Okwara and Walker could cause some problems for opposing quarterbacks.

3. Houston Texans

Kayvon Thibodeaux, DE, Oregon

One of the top offensive tackles -- Ikem Ekwonu or Evan Neal -- would be tempting, considering Houston allowed 44 sacks last season (ninth most). But Houston has holes all over the roster and three picks in the first two rounds to address as many of them as possible. Thibodeaux has outstanding closing burst and elite pass-rushing traits, and Lovie Smith's defenses are built on generating pressure. If Thibodeaux can find a more consistent motor, he can be a replacement for J.J. Watt.

Defenders haven't gone 1-2-3 in a draft since 1992, and we've never before seen three defensive ends lead Round 1.

4. New York Jets

Garrett Wilson, WR, Ohio State

The Jets have to find a true No. 1 receiver for second-year quarterback Zach Wilson, and a Wilson-Wilson connection could be fun to watch for a long time in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Garrett Wilson has elite body control and can regularly make contested plays downfield. New York's offensive skill position group -- which already includes wide receivers Corey Davis, Elijah Moore and Braxton Berrios, running back Michael Carter and tight end C.J. Uzomah -- could be sneaky good if its key players stay healthy and keep developing. And yes, it's yet another spot where an offensive tackle would make some sense, so don't be surprised if the Jets delay adding to the receiver room to lock in a potential upgrade on the line.

5. New York Giants

Ikem Ekwonu, OT, NC State

New general manager Joe Schoen would be off to a really, really good start to his tenure if he gets this lucky. A run on pass-rushers to begin the draft leaves Ekwonu for the Giants at No. 5 overall. He brings versatility, power, length and quickness, and he'd be opposite Andrew Thomas to form a solid duo to keep NFC pass-rushers in check.

6. Carolina Panthers

Kenny Pickett, QB, Pittsburgh

Simply put, coach Matt Rhule needs to win now and has one of the worst quarterback situations in the entire league. Sam Darnold will be a free agent next March, and he hasn't been much more effective for Carolina than he was for the Jets, if at all. Make no mistake, this is early for a QB in this year's weaker class, but the Panthers know they are running out of options and don't have another draft pick until Round 4.

Rhule recruited Pickett while he was Temple's coach, and Rhule has been locked into the signal-caller pro days this spring. Of the bunch, Pickett is the most NFL-ready quarterback available, and his fast processing ability, smooth pocket presence and excellent accuracy would elevate Carolina's offense. If the Panthers opt to explore other QB avenues, Evan Neal would be the obvious pick for one of the NFL's worst pass-blocking teams.

7. New York Giants (via CHI)

Kyle Hamilton, S, Notre Dame

The Giants already checked the offensive line box with Ekwonu, but Southern California wide receiver Drake London could help boost the offense. However, with some uncertainty around James Bradberry's future in the Big Apple, Cincinnati cornerback Ahmad Gardner would make sense. And while the top three pass-rushers are off the board, Florida State's Jermaine Johnson II fits. But the Giants' depth chart at safety is light, and adding someone with Hamilton's size, range and ball skills to the back end could change the way offenses game-plan for New York. Logan Ryan was released, and pairing Hamilton with Xavier McKinney (five interceptions and 10 passes defensed last season) would be an excellent last line of defense.

8. Atlanta Falcons

Drake London, WR, USC

The Falcons didn't do a whole lot to clean up a lackluster receiver room in free agency. They are currently relying on Olamide Zaccheaus and Damiere Byrd as their top two targets for new quarterback Marcus Mariota. We've only seen teams use top-10 picks on pass-catchers in back-to-back drafts three times since 1967 (Atlanta took tight end Kyle Pitts at No. 4 last April), but London is a perfect pick here. He is a former basketball player who can box out defensive backs and make tough, contested catches. London is returning from a right ankle fracture but should be ready to go for training camp.

As for the quarterback conundrum, Atlanta could address the future there with one of four picks on Day 2, wait until a more exciting signal-caller class in 2023 or execute some combination of both paths.

9. Seattle Seahawks (via DEN)

Evan Neal, OT, Alabama

The rebuild is on in the Pacific Northwest, and the list of needs is long. The Seahawks seem ready to lean on Drew Lock at quarterback for a year, but that wouldn't necessarily take them out of the mix for Liberty's Malik Willis -- though I think they will wait until 2023 to bring in the long-term fix. And the edge rush remains problematic following free agency, meaning Jermaine Johnson II would certainly be on GM John Schneider's radar. But let's not forget that Seattle has a void at left tackle (Duane Brown is still unsigned), and successful rebuilds often start there. Neal is tough to get around, dominant in the run game and able to play multiple positions.

10. New York Jets (via SEA)

Ahmad Gardner, CB, Cincinnati

There are probably three realistic options here in this scenario: Gardner, Jermaine Johnson II or Mississippi State offensive tackle Charles Cross. But the chance to get Gardner -- my No. 5 overall prospect in the class -- is too good to ignore. The Jets signed D.J. Reed in free agency, and both Brandin Echols and Bryce Hall are capable starters. But Gardner is the definition of shutdown corner. Consider this: The Jets allowed 116 passing plays for at least 15 yards last season, the second most in the NFL; Gardner didn't allow that many yards in a single game all year.

11. Washington Commanders

Chris Olave, WR, Ohio State

Let's get new Washington quarterback Carson Wentz a second high-end target beyond Terry McLaurin (who is potentially headed toward free agency next March). Olave is a smooth route runner with soft hands and excellent speed. Pairing him with McLaurin -- his former Ohio State teammate -- would immediately challenge NFC East defensive backs and open things up for Curtis Samuel out of the slot.

12. Minnesota Vikings

Derek Stingley Jr., CB, LSU

Stingley is a tough evaluation. If Minnesota gets the 2019 version of his game, this is a steal at No. 12. But the injury-plagued uneven play we've seen over the past two years makes this pick risky. The Vikings still have a need at cornerback despite signing Patrick Peterson (who will turn 32 this summer), and there is no denying what Stingley is capable of doing on the field if he puts it all together. Stingley can wear a lot of different hats on defense, shows great instincts and has the ball skills and speed to lock down receivers. And the Vikings can let Peterson -- a fellow LSU alum -- help Stingley adjust to the pro game.

The interior of the defensive line is also a concern, and Georgia's Jordan Davis and Devonte Wyatt deserve some lengthy thought. But ultimately, I just think it's too early to go that route.

13. Houston Texans (via CLE)

Charles Cross, OT, Mississippi State

Houston got its pass-rusher at No. 3 (Kayvon Thibodeaux), and now it can bring in an experienced pass-blocker to take the starting role opposite Laremy Tunsil. The Texans' 53.8% pass block win rate was No. 27 in the NFL last season, and they will need to improve if they want to get the most out of second-year quarterback Davis Mills. His 9.0 QBR under pressure in 2021 ranked 27th out of 31 qualified quarterbacks. Cross, meanwhile, is the best pass protector in the class. No player in college football has seen as many pass-block snaps over the past two years as Cross, and he only surrendered one sack in 2021. If Houston feels comfortable sliding him over to the right side, this would make a ton of sense.

14. Baltimore Ravens

Jermaine Johnson II, DE, Florida State

Iowa center Tyler Linderbaum would be a good pick after the Ravens lost Bradley Bozeman to free agency. But could the Ravens afford to ignore Johnson's fall out of the top 10 right into their lap at No. 14? They were in the bottom 10 last year in sacks (34), and only Tyus Bowser (seven sacks) and Odafe Oweh (five) made much of a dent there. Johnson had 12 sacks and 46 pressures at FSU in 2021, frequently using his quick feet, powerful hands and arsenal of pass-rush moves to overwhelm blockers. If Linderbaum does end up with the Ravens, I'd bet it comes after a trade down the Round 1 board.

15. Philadelphia Eagles (via MIA)

Trent McDuffie, CB, Washington

The Eagles still have two picks in the first round following their Monday afternoon trade, and the first is an instinctive, hard-hitting corner. There isn't a better tackling cornerback in the entire class than McDuffie, and he has the speed to stay with receivers and limit big plays. With Darius Slay on the other side, Philadelphia could have one of the top CB duos in the league.

16. New Orleans Saints (via PHI/IND)

Trevor Penning, OT, Northern Iowa

Could the Saints be moving up for a quarterback? Maybe GM Mickey Loomis thinks Malik Willis or one of the other signal-callers can be a long-term answer, and a move like this suggests the possibility. But I get the sense that New Orleans believes it can challenge Tampa Bay for the NFC South right now, and this pick allows the Saints to attack some issues in the trenches.

Left tackle Terron Armstead signed with Miami in free agency, leaving James Hurst in a starting role. Penning is the last of the top-tier tackles on the board, and he makes a lot of sense as Armstead's replacement in protecting Jameis Winston. The 6-foot-7, 325-pounder is also an outstanding run-blocker, which would help spring ball carrier Alvin Kamara.

TRADE: Chiefs move up for a pass-catcher

The Chargers pulled out the checkbook in free agency, improving just about every area of the defense. That spending included defensive tackles Austin Johnson and Sebastian Joseph-Day, which obviously alleviates some of the run-blocking worries. That's not to say Jordan Davis -- a mock favorite at No. 17 over the past two months -- won't be the move, but the Chargers could be looking to pivot to the offensive line after those signings. And with Trevor Penning off the board, they might try to move down and pick up extra draft capital.

The Chiefs, flush with picks, could be looking to get ahead of some receiver-seeking franchises, like the Eagles, Saints, Packers, Patriots and Titans. In this mock deal, the Chargers get two additional selections in the first three rounds: Nos. 29, 62 and 94. The Chiefs, meanwhile, get the wideout they want to replace Tyreek Hill at No. 17 and still have Nos. 30, 50 and 103 over the first two days.

17. Kansas City Chiefs (via mock trade with LAC)

Jameson Williams, WR, Alabama

Williams tore his ACL in the national championship game, and his impact on the Chiefs' offense wouldn't come in Week 1. But there isn't a more explosive wide receiver in the class. He can take the top off the defense and run under any deep ball. Does that sound like a fit for a certain NFL team? Kansas City could feast on a Patrick Mahomes-Williams connection for a long time and keep pace with the AFC West's other rapidly improving teams.

18. Philadelphia Eagles (via NO)

Devin Lloyd, ILB, Utah

Yes, the Eagles typically pass on off-ball linebackers in Round 1, but they need one, and Lloyd -- a potential immediate high-impact starter -- is sitting there on the board. A former safety, Lloyd flies all over the field and does a little bit of everything. He had 99 tackles, 18 tackles for loss and four interceptions last season.

Philly might be down one of its three first-rounders for this year after the deal with the Saints, but it picked up another Day 1 pick in 2023. If GM Howie Roseman decides that Jalen Hurts isn't the Eagles' guy after this season, he will have some early picks to go after Alabama's Bryce Young, Ohio State's C.J. Stroud or another passer.

19. New Orleans Saints (via PHI)

Jordan Davis, DT, Georgia

The Saints have a strong run defense, but defensive tackles David Onyemata and Shy Tuttle are only under contract for one more year, and Davis could really be a game-changer in the middle of the field. He is a space eater who wowed scouts at the combine with a 4.78-second 40-yard dash, 32-inch vertical jump and 10-foot-3 broad jump at 6-foot-6 and 341 pounds. If he can stay at that weight in the NFL, look out.

New Orleans also might be looking at wide receivers in this range. Penn State's Jahan Dotson fits, and Arkansas' Treylon Burks would provide a big target outside. I think it's probably a few picks too early for both, and the second round promises to have plenty of pass-catching options. I don't think the Saints let Davis get past them here.

20. Pittsburgh Steelers

Malik Willis, QB, Liberty

All signs are pointing toward Pittsburgh drafting a quarterback, and in this scenario, it doesn't even have to move up to get one of the top two passers in the class. Willis is creative outside the pocket and has a rocket arm, and I actually have him ranked one spot ahead of Kenny Pickett at No. 21 on my board. With Mitch Trubisky on a team-friendly two-year deal, there's no rush for Willis to play right away, and coach Mike Tomlin could develop Willis before turning over the keys. The AFC North is stacked at QB, but Willis has the upside to get the Steelers right back in the mix.

21. New England Patriots

Nakobe Dean, ILB, Georgia

New England could use a spark in the middle of the defense. Dean might not have the measurables that NFL teams seek -- he is 5-foot-11 with shorter arms -- but his tape might be my favorite in the entire class because of his incredible effort on every play and the way he can impact the run defense, pass defense and pass rush on any given set of downs. I think he'd be a star in coach Bill Belichick's system.

22. Green Bay Packers (via LV)

Jahan Dotson, WR, Penn State

The Packers have this pick because of the Davante Adams trade, so why not use it to start replacing all those catches? One draft pick isn't going to replace arguably the best wideout in football, but Dotson is a lightning-fast possession receiver (91 receptions last season) who could be an instant favorite of quarterback Aaron Rodgers. Dotson is versatile and has elite ball skills. We've talked and talked about how Green Bay doesn't draft first-round wide receivers, but it doesn't have much of a choice this year, considering it has two Day 1 selections and Allen Lazard topping the current depth chart. Treylon Burks is another option if the Packers want to go with a bigger outside threat.

23. Arizona Cardinals

Treylon Burks, WR, Arkansas

DeAndre Hopkins missed time last season, and A.J. Green is no longer on the roster. Rondale Moore flashed during his rookie year, but quarterback Kyler Murray would benefit from one more reliable target. Burks is a big target with good hands and the physicality to tack on extra yards after the catch. Arizona might also think about a cornerback (Clemson's Andrew Booth Jr.), edge rusher (Purdue's George Karlaftis) or defensive tackle (Georgia's Devonte Wyatt).

24. Dallas Cowboys

George Karlaftis, DE, Purdue

Randy Gregory signed with Denver, and Dante Fowler Jr. isn't going to solve the Cowboys' lack of pass-rush depth. Dallas can, of course, slide Micah Parsons back into the edge-rushing role he had last season when he totaled 13 sacks; and while I personally think Parsons can do even more for the Cowboys in his more traditional role at inside linebacker, the team needs more pass rushing no matter what. Karlaftis has an explosive first step and the power to bull rush linemen.

25. Buffalo Bills

Andrew Booth Jr., CB, Clemson

If Buffalo wants to come out on top of a loaded AFC, it should focus in on its cornerback group. Tre'Davious White is coming off an ACL tear, and Levi Wallace signed with Pittsburgh. I really like Booth's game and think he could be a No. 2 corner as a rookie, before developing into a No. 1. He is scheme-versatile, explodes out of his back pedal and shows above-average ball skills.

26. Tennessee Titans

Christian Watson, WR, North Dakota State

A seventh first-round wide receiver to match the 2004 record! It's a deep pass-catching class, and there are plenty of teams searching for playmakers on the outside. Yes, this is a bit of a reach, but Tennessee probably wasn't planning on six wideouts being off the board already. The Titans' deal for Robert Woods was one step toward getting quarterback Ryan Tannehill more pass-catchers beyond A.J. Brown; but they shouldn't stop there, especially since Woods is returning from a torn ACL and the team cut Julio Jones. Watson is a big target who brings a vertical element to the table.

27. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Devonte Wyatt, DT, Georgia

Remember when the Buccaneers returned all of their starters from a Super Bowl roster last offseason? This is a much different situation in 2022. The trade for Shaq Mason lessens the losses of Ali Marpet and Alex Cappa at guard, but Boston College's Zion Johnson or Texas A&M's Kenyon Green would still be in the draft picture. Tampa Bay used a first-rounder on Joe Tryon-Shoyinka last year, but it could go back to that edge-rush well to build up a lacking unit -- perhaps in the form of Minnesota's Boye Mafe or Penn State's Arnold Ebiketie. But I'm ultimately matching the Bucs with Wyatt, who has an incredible ability to locate the football, close on it and make a play. Ndamukong Suh is still a free agent and could return, but Wyatt and Vita Vea up the middle would wreak havoc on opponents.

28. Green Bay Packers

Kenyon Green, G, Texas A&M

The Packers like versatile pass-blockers, and having Green and Elgton Jenkins (returning from a torn ACL) in the same unit gives them a lot of alignment choices. Green has multiple starts at both tackle spots and both guard spots. We already added a wide receiver for Rodgers, but drafting another lineman will help keep the 38-year-old quarterback upright.

29. Los Angeles Chargers (via mock trade with KC/MIA/SF)

Zion Johnson, G/C, Boston College

The Chargers want to keep quarterback Justin Herbert clean, and while they could really use another offensive tackle, the value still isn't here at No. 29. Using their newly acquired second-rounder from the mock trade might be the best route. Instead, how about a versatile interior lineman who can play guard or center? Johnson amazingly didn't allow a single pressure or sack in 12 games last season, and he has just one penalty over 2,271 career snaps.

30. Kansas City Chiefs

Boye Mafe, OLB, Minnesota

The Chiefs have to slow down Justin Herbert, Russell Wilson and Derek Carr in six of their 17 games, but their pass rush generated just 31 sacks last season (No. 29). Mafe is still developing, but his takeoff is lightning fast, and he has the tools to go from rookie pass-rush specialist to high-level starter off the edge. Mafe had seven sacks last season, and he has a lot of upside.

31. Cincinnati Bengals

Tyler Linderbaum, C, Iowa

By now, the Bengals' protection woes of 2021 are well-documented. Quarterback Joe Burrow took way, way too many hits last season, and the offensive line was a glaring problem coming into the offseason. Cincinnati wasn't messing around in free agency, though, signing offensive tackle La'el Collins and interior linemen Alex Cappa and Ted Karras. That's a big improvement. But is it enough? I'm not sure Karras is a long-term answer, and Linderbaum should quickly emerge as one of the best centers in the NFL. Linderbaum anchors well and fights to the whistle, and his zone-blocking ability will open lanes for running back Joe Mixon. And as an added bonus, this is terrific value: Linderbaum is my No. 18 prospect.

32. Detroit Lions (via LAR)

Desmond Ridder, QB, Cincinnati

Detroit will be back on the clock with the second selection of Round 2, but it can first get the valuable fifth-year option on a quarterback here with the final pick of Round 1. Jared Goff is under contract through 2024, but his contract structure allows the Lions to move on after this season, if they wish. Ridder isn't a sure thing, and he has too many ball-location misses, but his strong arm, good mobility and high-end ability to read the field make him an intriguing pick to cap off Day 1.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.COM

Last updated: March 22, 2022 (does not include the PHI/NO trade)

Pick 1 - Jacksonville Jaguars

Aidan Hutchinson | Michigan · Edge · Senior

The Jags addressed the offensive line by tagging Cam Robinson and signing Brandon Scherff. Those moves point to a pass rusher with their first pick, and Hutchinson is the best one in the class.

Pick 2 - Detroit Lions

Travon Walker | Georgia · Edge · Junior

Walker has the athleticism and scheme versatility to fit in with any of the teams at the top of the draft.

Pick 3 - Houston Texans

Kayvon Thibodeaux | Oregon · Edge · Junior

The Texans are loaded with draft capital after the Deshaun Watson trade. Adding a premier pass rusher would be a good cornerstone for their rebuild.

Pick 4 - New York Jets

Sauce Gardner | Cincinnati · CB · Junior

The Jets added two quality secondary starters during free agency in D.J. Reed and Jordan Whitehead. Snagging the top cornerback in this draft would really round out a necessary overhaul in the back end of Robert Saleh's defense.

Pick 5 - New York Giants

Ickey Ekwonu | N.C. State · OT · Junior

This would be an ideal situation for new Giants GM Joe Schoen. Ekwonu is the best offensive lineman in the class.

Pick 6 - Carolina Panthers

Evan Neal | Alabama · OT · Junior

The Panthers have been doing their homework on the quarterbacks in this class, and I won't be surprised if they go in that direction. However, Neal would be a Day 1 starter up front.

Pick 7 - New York Giants (via Bears)

Jermaine Johnson II | Florida State · Edge · Senior (RS)

Johnson is an explosive edge rusher with outstanding production. Pairing him with Azeez Ojulari, who just posted eight sacks in his rookie campaign, could do wonders for New York's pass rush.

Pick 8 - Atlanta Falcons

Garrett Wilson | Ohio State · WR · Junior

The Matt Ryan era is over, so this could be a landing spot for a quarterback. However, Marcus Mariota is a serviceable option. And in the wake of Calvin Ridley's suspension and Russell Gage's relocation to Tampa, the Falcons have a desperate need for a wide receiver.

Pick 9 - Seattle Seahawks (via Broncos)

Charles Cross | Mississippi State · OT · Sophomore (RS)

The Seahawks need help in a lot of areas. Cross would be an immediate starter at left tackle.

Pick 10 - New York Jets (via Seahawks)

Drake London | USC · WR · Junior

Zach Wilson, last year's No. 2 overall pick, needs some help to get back on track after a rocky rookie season. London would give Wilson a big third-down target and a red-zone weapon.

Pick 11 - Washington Commanders

Kyle Hamilton | Notre Dame · S · Junior

The Commanders stop the slide of one of the highest-rated players in the entire class. Don't worry about the 4.59 40 time -- the versatile safety plays fast in pads.

Pick 12 - Minnesota Vikings

Jordan Davis | Georgia · DT · Senior

Davis is a dominant run defender with plenty of untapped potential as a pass rusher. (You saw what the 6-foot-6, 341-pounder did at the NFL Scouting Combine, right?)

Pick 13 - Houston Texans (via Browns)

Trent McDuffie | Washington · CB · Junior

McDuffie checked in a little smaller than anticipated at the combine (5-10 3/4 and 193 pounds with 29 3/4-inch arms), but his tape is outstanding.

Pick 14 - Baltimore Ravens

George Karlaftis | Purdue · Edge · Junior

Baltimore's signing of Morgan Moses eliminates the dire need at offensive tackle. Karlaftis plays with the passion and effort the Ravens covet.

Pick 15 - Philadelphia Eagles (via Dolphins)

Devonte Wyatt | Georgia · DT · Senior

Wyatt put on a show in Indianapolis. He'd add some youth and explosiveness to the Eagles' interior defensive line.

Pick 16 - Philadelphia Eagles (via Colts)

Devin Lloyd | Utah · LB · Senior (RS)

I know the Eagles typically avoid taking linebackers in the first round, but Lloyd would be too good to pass up at this point in the draft.

Pick 17 - Los Angeles Chargers

Trevor Penning | Northern Iowa · OT · Senior (RS)

One year after shoring up the blind side with the first-round selection of Rashawn Slater, the Chargers land their starting right tackle.

Pick 18 - New Orleans Saints

Kenny Pickett | Pittsburgh · QB · Senior (RS)

Pickett could ultimately land in the top 10, but if he falls, I can't see him slipping past the Saints.

Pick 19 - Philadelphia Eagles

Boye Mafe | Minnesota · Edge · Senior (RS)

Mafe followed a dominant Senior Bowl performance with an outstanding combine workout. The Eagles would be stacked with talent along the defensive front.

Pick 20 - Pittsburgh Steelers

Derek Stingley Jr. | LSU · CB · Junior

This would be a fun fit in the Steelers' secondary. When healthy and dialed in, Stingley is a top-five talent in this class.

Pick 21 - New England Patriots

Jameson Williams | Alabama · WR · Junior

The Patriots need to get more dynamic weapons for Mac Jones. Though he's currently recovering from a torn ACL, Williams has elite top speed and toughness.

Pick 22 - Green Bay Packers (via Raiders)

Chris Olave | Ohio State · WR · Senior

It's well documented that the Packers don't historically take wideouts in the first round, but in the wake of Davante Adams' departure, this would be too tempting to pass up. Olave's the kind of polished route runner Aaron Rodgers would love.

Pick 23 - Arizona Cardinals

Treylon Burks | Arkansas · WR · Junior

The Cardinals lost Christian Kirk in free agency, and Burks could slide right into that role.

Pick 24 - Dallas Cowboys

Zion Johnson | Boston College · IOL · Senior

Johnson has position flexibility and would help protect Dak Prescott for the next decade.

Pick 25 - Buffalo Bills

Breece Hall | Iowa State · RB · Junior

The Bills are poised to make a Super Bowl run, and Hall could be the finishing touch on offense.

Pick 26 - Tennessee Titans

Tyler Smith | Tulsa · OT · Sophomore (RS)

Smith can play right tackle or slide inside to guard. His nasty play style would fit right into the Titans' physical culture.

Pick 27 - Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Travis Jones | Connecticut · DT · Senior

The Bucs are losing some key pieces on their defensive front. Jones can start Day 1.

Pick 28 - Green Bay Packers

Jahan Dotson | Penn State · WR · Senior

Why not? The Packers could completely revamp their receiving corps with Olave and Dotson. I know it probably won't happen, but a man can dream.

Pick 29 - Miami Dolphins (via 49ers)

Tyler Linderbaum | Iowa · C · Junior (RS)

Linderbaum has Pro Bowl potential at the center position. He would complete the reworking of Miami's offensive line.

Pick 30 - Kansas City Chiefs

Arnold Ebiketie | Penn State · Edge · Senior (RS)

The Chiefs need more pass-rush pop. Ebiketie can win with speed or power.

Pick 31 - Cincinnati Bengals

Andrew Booth | Clemson · CB · Junior

Booth would provide a much-needed reinforcement to Cincinnati's secondary.

Pick 32 Detroit Lions (via Rams)

Nakobe Dean | Georgia · LB · Junior

In this slot, Dean would be the best value pick of the first round.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

CYNTHIA FRELUND – NFL.COM

Last updated: March 31, 2022 (does not include PHI/NO trade)

Pick 1 - Jacksonville Jaguars

Aidan Hutchinson | Michigan · Edge · Senior

Since my first mock draft came out in February, the Jaguars have franchise-tagged tackle Cam Robinson and signed guard Brandon Scherff in free agency, increasing the value of the O-line and shifting the optimal win-share selection to the best edge rusher available (Hutchinson). Last season, no team forced fewer turnovers than the Jags (nine). Hutchinson turned in three games this past season with at least three sacks, including the Ohio State game. Pairing him with Josh Allen could work wonders for the Jaguars' defense.

Pick 2 - Detroit Lions

Kyle Hamilton | Notre Dame · S · Junior

I had an edge rusher here (Hutchinson) in my last mock, so I realize it might seem odd that I now have Detroit taking a safety -- a position often regarded as ranking outside of the top five in terms of priority (QB, pass rusher, LT, WR, CB). But my second-ranked pass rusher (Kayvon Thibodeaux) doesn't offer the same win-share value for the Lions as Hamilton does in 2022. Hamilton's versatility makes him the best selection for Detroit at No. 2 overall, as he has the potential to impact several phases of the game and areas of the field. My favorite Hamilton stat? Computer Vision shows he ranks in the 95th percentile in body control (eight-year sample) in plays that resulted in the following: interceptions, pass breakups, effective blitzing and shutting down outside pass catchers and slot pass catchers.

Pick 3 - Houston Texans

Evan Neal | Alabama · OT · Junior

Lining up with Laremy Tunsil on the left and Neal on the right changes the tackle box for a team with a laundry list of needs. Neal is my model's highest-rated tackle, especially on passing downs. The Texans are flush with draft capital after trading Deshaun Watson, so it's not hard to imagine them moving all over the board.

Pick 4 - New York Jets

Sauce Gardner | Cincinnati · CB · Junior

New mock, same pick. And yes, even with the secondary additions of corner D.J Reed and safety Jordan Whitehead in free agency.

Pick 5 - New York Giants

Ickey Ekwonu | N.C. State · OT · Junior

Another duplicate pick here from Mock 1.0, especially with the Giants front office telling us they aren't shopping Saquon Barkley. Ekwonu's 18 big-time blocks in the run game, per Pro Football Focus, were seven more than the next-closest Power Five offensive lineman.

Pick 6 - Carolina Panthers

Charles Cross | Mississippi State · OT · Sophomore (RS)

The Mississippi State tackle allowed just 16 pressures on 719 pass-blocking snaps in 2021, per Pro Football Focus. Cross is a great fit for a Panthers O-line that just finished 31st on PFF's year-end rankings.

Pick 7 - New York Giants (from CHI)

Kayvon Thibodeaux | Oregon · Edge · Junior

After posting just 34 sacks last season (tied for 22nd), the Giants could pounce on the high-upside pass rusher out of Oregon.

Pick 8 - Atlanta Falcons

Travon Walker | Georgia · DL · Junior

Walker is an interesting selection, considering the Falcons have a glaring need at wide receiver and could have their pick of the litter here. But snatching up Walker -- while continuing to hit WR in free agency -- adds more to the bottom line than the top receiver prospect would. My favorite Walker note comes from Computer Vision: In all alignments and situations he was used in last year at Georgia, his burst (first 3 yards traveled off the line) never eroded in speed. Walker blew up the NFL Scouting Combine, as well. And his upside is comparable to that of Thibodeaux, with a safer floor due in part to versatility.

Pick 9 - Seattle Seahawks (from DEN)

Jermaine Johnson II | Florida State · Edge · Senior (RS)

Another edge rusher! Seattle's roster has needs everywhere, but the Seahawks could definitely use an explosive edge rusher to pressure the talented quarterbacks in the NFC West.

Pick 10 - New York Jets (via Seahawks)

Garrett Wilson | Ohio State · WR · Junior

What are the chances that it takes until pick No. 10 for a wide receiver to come off the board? According to my models, a very low 17.5 percent. Wilson remains my top-rated receiver in this draft. His ability to produce both outside and from the slot helps differentiate him from many other top pass catchers in this class.

Pick 11 - Washington Commanders

Derek Stingley Jr. | LSU · CB · Junior

PFF charted Stingley's LSU career completion percentage allowed at 41.1. That kind of sticky coverage would be a huge boon to a Commanders defense that just allowed a 100.8 passer rating to opposing quarterbacks in 2021. Pairing Stingley with Kendall Fuller, who was the bright spot of this secondary last season, creates the most value.

Pick 12 - Minnesota Vikings

Trent McDuffie | Washington · CB · Junior

I had Stingley here in Mock 1.0. With him off the board, the Vikings grab another CB. Stingley and McDuffie aren't interchangeable -- especially with their different body types/skill sets -- but the discrepancy in win-share value between the two is very minimal.

Pick 13 - Houston Texans (from CLE)

Drake London | USC · WR · Junior

Sometimes, my own models surprise me -- and that's the case here. While the Texans have PLENTY of needs on both sides of the ball, I would've guessed the model would favor a defensive player here, with Houston addressing the offensive line at No. 3 overall. However, with the dwindling pool of free-agent WRs available, taking a big-bodied, contested-catch machine adds the most wins to this team in 2022.

Pick 14 - Baltimore Ravens

George Karlaftis | Purdue · Edge · Junior

At his pro day, Karlaftis told NFL Network's Stacey Dales that his self comp is Khalil Mack. The Ravens would be ecstatic if he ended up being 75 percent of Mack. I am high on Karlaftis, primarily due to his power rush.

Pick 15 - Philadelphia Eagles (from MIA)

Devonte Wyatt | Georgia · DT · Senior

I know we talked a lot about his Georgia teammate, Jordan Davis, at the combine, but Wyatt is a darling of Computer Vision metrics, showing explosive traits in pads. While the Eagles did re-sign Fletcher Cox, it's a one-year deal for a 30-something DT who has shown regression in recent seasons. Adding to this spot creates the most value should Philly not trade out of this pick or the next.

Pick 16 - Philadelphia Eagles (from IND)

Treylon Burks | Arkansas · WR · Junior

The Eagles' receiving corps benefits most from adding a consistent vertical threat. Watching all 11 of Burks' receiving touchdowns last season -- and using Computer Vision to characterize them -- I saw his ability to dominate from the line of scrimmage quite clearly.

Pick 17 - Los Angeles Chargers

Jordan Davis | Georgia · DT · Senior

I love this pick for two reasons:

1. Davis' raw talent offers so much immediate upside for the Bolts, especially when it comes to stopping the run.
2. Teaching is a huge key for incoming NFL players, and this is a situation where Brandon Staley could help craft a very, very special DT.

Pick 18 - New Orleans Saints

Trevor Penning | Northern Iowa · OT · Senior (RS)

This past season, Penning posted the highest run-blocking grade ever charted by Pro Football Focus (going back to 2014 for college grading), though it should be noted that it primarily came against FCS competition. With Terron Armstead now a Dolphin, Penning would be a Day 1 starter for New Orleans, manning the blind side opposite special bookend Ryan Ramczyk.

Pick 19 - Philadelphia Eagles

Devin Lloyd | Utah · LB · Senior (RS)

Linebackers are some of the hardest players to forecast in terms of fit and win share, but Lloyd stands out from the pack, especially with his ability to blitz and cover. The Eagles could definitely win the NFC East, but upgrading the defense is a big key to making that happen.

Pick 20 - Pittsburgh Steelers

Bernhard Raimann | Central Michigan · OT · Senior

Same pick as last time around in this slot. Especially with more certainty at the quarterback position, addressing the line is the biggest win-share mover for the Steelers.

Pick 21 - New England Patriots

Nakobe Dean | Georgia · LB · Junior

If this happens, it'll mark the second year in a row where the board falls the Patriots' way in Round 1, allowing them to fill a glaring need without the need for even a small draft-day trade. With uncertainty about Dont'a Hightower's return, my model has Dean sliding right into a crucial part of New England's defense.

Pick 22 - Green Bay Packers (from LV)

Chris Olave | Ohio State · WR · Senior

Anyone shocked seeing a receiver here? To me, Green Bay's history of not drafting first-round wideouts is more of a fun note than a predictive one. Ultimately, it will likely be the Packers' job to select whichever top wideout they like most, though they might have to move up the board to get him.

Pick 23 - Arizona Cardinals

Jameson Williams | Alabama · WR · Junior

If Williams hadn't torn his ACL in the national title game, he would have slightly edged out Garrett Wilson for top WR on my board. But he did, and although the 'Bama product says he's "ahead of schedule" in his rehab, it's still an uncertainty. The Cardinals get DeAndre Hopkins back from injury, but Christian Kirk's in Jacksonville and A.J. Green remains a free agent. Williams' route running and speed forecast could nicely complement Hopkins and change the Cardinals' pass-catching potential.

Pick 24 - Dallas Cowboys

Tyler Linderbaum | Iowa · IOL · Junior (RS)

Pedigreed interior O-linemen -- especially ones with projected profiles that suggest at least above-average (if not elite) production -- pair well with what we have seen Kellen Moore call. Linderbaum becomes above-average or better in 30.4 percent of outcomes, per my models. Think of 25 percent as a very high number.

Pick 25 - Buffalo Bills

Zion Johnson | Boston College · IOL · Senior

I know the Bills are matching OG Ryan Bates' offer sheet from the Bears, but the value of adding Johnson in the first -- and then reinforcing other positions (like RB) later -- creates the most wins. However, if any of the corners who are already gone in this exercise remain available on draft night, a switch makes sense.

Pick 26 - Tennessee Titans

Jahan Dotson | Penn State · WR · Senior

The more the Titans convince opposing teams that they can pass the ball, the better for the offense as a whole. Dotson would help Tennessee do just that as a nice complement to A.J. Brown and Robert Woods.

Pick 27 - Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Boye Mafe | Minnesota · Edge · Senior (RS)

Computer Vision shows that Mafe's burst (speed off the line of scrimmage) ranks in the top 20 of all edge rushers in the past eight draft classes.

Pick 28 - Green Bay Packers

Tyler Smith | Tulsa · OT · Sophomore (RS)

I was really hoping to get another wideout here, for fun. But nah. The Packers are likely to rely on runs from Aaron Jones/A.J. Dillon and shorter passes -- at least for some time. Davante Adams is my top-rated WR in the league; losing him necessitates an adjustment period, even for the back-to-back MVP. Give Aaron Rodgers a rugged blocker to blow open running lanes and provide time in the pocket.

Pick 29 - Kansas City Chiefs (from SF through MIA)

Dax Hill | Michigan · S · Junior

Pass-stopping defensive pieces might matter most in this loaded AFC West. So, even though the Chiefs have already replaced Tyrann Mathieu with Justin Reid, both this pick and the very next one address the back end of Kansas City's defense. Hill offers plenty of versatility, to boot.

Pick 30 - Kansas City Chiefs

Kaiir Elam | Florida · CB · Junior

To be honest, the margin between Elam and Clemson corner Andrew Booth is razor thin. Though Booth did recently have core muscle surgery.

Pick 31 - Cincinnati Bengals

Kenyon Green | Texas A&M · IOL · Junior

There are defensive areas on this roster that must be addressed, but rounding out a complete overhaul of the interior O-line (after adding Ted Karras and Alex Cappa in free agency) could be a huge boon to the Bengals, who will play a first-place schedule in 2022.

Pick 32 Detroit Lions (from LAR)

David Ojabo | Michigan · Edge · Sophomore (RS)

Ojabo slides in this mock due to the torn Achilles suffered at his pro day. Considering that I am selecting for wins in 2022, the fact that he's still a first-rounder says a lot about how much my model believes in his raw ability, because it is uncertain how many games he will be able to play as a rookie.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

PETER SCHRAGER – NFL.COM

Last updated: April 19, 2022

1. Jacksonville Jaguars

Travon Walker | Georgia · DL · Junior

I'm told by people in the know that the decision on this pick is far from made. With less than two weeks to go, the Jaguars are still building their board. The fact that it remains a debate makes me think Trent Baalke is leaning toward Walker.

2. Detroit Lions

Aidan Hutchinson | Michigan · Edge · Senior

If the Jags go with Travon Walker, Detroit won't waste a second turning in this draft card. Local ties aside, Hutchinson is everything the Lions are looking for in a franchise building block and future 10-year starter up front.

3. Houston Texans

Ickey Ekwonu | N.C. State · OT · Junior

I've heard a lot of noise from folks around the league that Houston could pick one of the two corners -- Sauce Gardner or Derek Stingley Jr. -- but this seems too rich a spot in the draft to take a DB. Houston will address the lack of talent in their current defensive backfield at some point.

4. New York Jets

Kayvon Thibodeaux | Oregon · Edge · Junior

If Evan Neal, Sauce Gardner and Thibodeaux are all on the board at No. 4, it will be a simulation and conversation the Jets have explored for weeks. I'm told the team is still sorting its board, but that its meeting with Thibodeaux last Friday went extremely well. At some point, the Jets front office needs to get Robert Saleh an edge rusher.

5. New York Giants

Charles Cross | Mississippi State · OT · Sophomore (RS)

Your first big shocker of the draft: The Giants take Cross over Evan Neal and Sauce Gardner. I've heard the Giants love the Mississippi State product, who's not only rising up their board, but several other teams', as well.

6. Carolina Panthers

Kenny Pickett | Pittsburgh · QB · Senior (RS)

Pickett's meeting with the Panthers last week went really well. In fact, all of the QB prospect meetings with Carolina did. With only one other pick in the top 140, I think the Panthers just take their QB of choice, hold their nose and deal with any draft-day critiques suggesting they reached with this selection.

7. New York Giants (from CHI)

Sauce Gardner | Cincinnati · CB · Junior

New defensive coordinator Wink Martindale will be the happiest man on the planet if Sauce falls to No. 7. The former Bearcat is one of the few DBs in recent college football history who could be left on an island and come out on top. Considering Wink's blitz-everyone-and-their-brother-and-mother approach, Gardner would be a perfect fit in the Giants' defensive backfield.

8. Atlanta Falcons

Evan Neal | Alabama · OT · Junior

The Falcons sit pretty at No. 8 and take the best player available in Neal. This situation would be a lot like what happened to the Chargers last year when Pro Bowler Rashawn Slater unexpectedly fell out of the top 12.

9. Seattle Seahawks (from DEN)

Derek Stingley Jr. | LSU · CB · Junior

Defensive back might not be the most pressing need for Seattle, but Stingley can ball. There's a big drop-off on teams' overall boards at the corner spot after Gardner and Stingley. Seattle gets another LSU Tiger to join Jamal Adams in the secondary.

10. New York Jets (from SEA)

Jameson Williams | Alabama · WR · Junior

Williams is still working his way back from ACL surgery, but that shouldn't eliminate his chances of going in the top 10. The Jets are still looking to beef up their receiver room, and Williams has WR1 potential.

11. Washington Commanders

Garrett Wilson | Ohio State · WR · Junior

Whether or not Washington extends Terry McLaurin isn't a contributing factor with my pick here. The Commanders can go a variety of ways, but if Wilson slips out of the top 10, I think they'd pounce on the former Buckeye.

12. Minnesota Vikings

Jermaine Johnson II | Florida State · Edge · Senior (RS)

Derek Stingley Jr.'s defensive coordinator at LSU, Daronte Jones, is now coaching with Minnesota (defensive backs), and I think the talented corner is the apple of the Vikings' eye. If he's off the board, look for Johnson, an Eden Prairie, Minnesota, native who's viewed by most teams as the fourth pass rusher off the board.

13. Houston Texans (from CLE)

Kyle Hamilton | Notre Dame · S · Junior

The Texans need to address their defensive backfield. In Hamilton, they get the best safety in this draft and a guy who could be a captain his first year on the field.

14. Baltimore Ravens

Trevor Penning | Northern Iowa · OT · Senior (RS)

Love this fit, both for the landing spot and value. Lamar Jackson will relish playing behind Penning, who has a nasty streak the Ravens may have lost when they traded Orlando Brown Jr. a year ago.

15. Philadelphia Eagles (from MIA)

Drake London | USC · WR · Junior

Could Philly draft a wide receiver in the first round for the third straight year? Yes. Yes, they can. Remember, they have 10 total selections, and Nick Sirianni is an offensive coach with a big say in this pick.

16. New Orleans Saints (from IND through PHI)

Chris Olave | Ohio State · WR · Senior

New Orleans takes a WR with elite speed and tremendous upside to pair with the big, physical Michael Thomas.

17. Los Angeles Chargers

Treylon Burks | Arkansas · WR · Junior

The run at WR continues with the Chargers scooping up another target for Justin Herbert. Burks is the 2022 prospect most often compared to Deebo Samuel, in that he's a prolific playmaker from the perimeter and out of the backfield.

18. Philadelphia Eagles (from NO)

Devin Lloyd | Utah · LB · Senior (RS)

Lloyd's a great player and person and has the X's-and-O's know-how to be the shot-caller of the Eagles' D. He has exceptional pass-coverage skills (check out his INT against Stanford) and can line up with tight ends in the passing game.

19. New Orleans Saints (from PHI)

Jordan Davis | Georgia · DT · Senior

The NFL Scouting Combine superhero would find a great defensive coaching staff and core to learn from in New Orleans. Is he going to be the 340-pound physical freak we all saw in Indy or the 360-pound player at UGA who struggled to stay on the field versus Alabama the first time they played last season?

20. Pittsburgh Steelers

Malik Willis | Liberty · QB · Senior (RS)

Drafting Willis wouldn't be an indictment on Mitchell Trubisky -- it'd be a move toward the future. May the best man win. Willis, who'd be a value pick at No. 20, has a lot of fans around the league -- just not sure there's one willing to take him in the top 10 at this point.

21. New England Patriots

Trent McDuffie | Washington · CB · Junior

The Patriots didn't re-sign J.C. Jackson and are looking at Jalen Mills and Malcolm Butler as the likely starting corners. Neither is the long-term answer at CB1. McDuffie has a lot of fans around the league.

22. Green Bay Packers (via LV)

Jahan Dotson | Penn State · WR · Senior

I think the Packers take the best WR left on the board. Dotson isn't going to be Davante Adams anytime soon (or likely ever), but he's a quality receiver who can contribute right away from multiple spots on the field. Eventually, by the end of the season, he could be the Packers' No. 1 or 2 option.

23. Arizona Cardinals

Zion Johnson | Boston College · IOL · Senior

Incredibly intelligent and versatile, Johnson would immediately find a spot along Arizona's offensive line. I don't see the Cardinals taking a defensive player in the first round for a third straight year -- regardless of who's on the board.

24. Dallas Cowboys

Tyler Linderbaum | Iowa · C · Junior (RS)

The Cowboys need offensive line help, and if Linderbaum is still available at No. 24, I could see the former standout wrestler as the team's starting center from Day 1.

25. Buffalo Bills

Breece Hall | Iowa State · RB · Junior

Everyone's loading up with offensive weapons in the AFC. The Bills are no different. Hall is the only running back I have going in the first round and would immediately become Buffalo's RB1.

26. Tennessee Titans

Kenyon Green | Texas A&M · IOL · Junior

Green has interviewed well with teams the past few weeks and has an edge to him that will jell with that Titans offensive line.

27. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Dax Hill | Michigan · S · Junior

The Bucs were able to keep Carlton Davis in free agency, but lost well-regarded safety Jordan Whitehead to the Jets. With a still-loaded defense up front, Tampa looks to the school where Tom Brady (and front office impresario John Spytek) went so many years ago.

28. Green Bay Packers

Devonte Wyatt | Georgia · DT · Senior

Wyatt had an amazing combine performance that was overshadowed by his Georgia teammate, Jordan Davis. Nimble for his size (6-3, 304), Wyatt can be an immediate impact player on Joe Barry's defensive front.

29. Kansas City Chiefs (from SF through MIA)

George Karlaftis | Purdue · Edge · Junior

Karlaftis could go anywhere from the 20s to the 40s. If he's still on the board at No. 29, the Chiefs could scoop him up; he'd be a good fit in Steve Spagnuolo's 4-3 defense. Karlaftis, who spent his early years in Greece playing water polo, has emerged as a polished talent over the last few seasons in the Big Ten.

30. Kansas City Chiefs

Kyler Gordon | Washington · CB · Junior (RS)

The Chiefs respond to the AFC's arms race by adding another defensive back. Gordon is well-regarded around the league, with some teams liking him as much as his Washington teammate, Trent McDuffie.

31. Cincinnati Bengals

Tyler Smith | Tulsa · OT · Sophomore (RS)

Smith is only a redshirt sophomore, but he's viewed as having one of the highest upsides of any lineman in this class. In the offseason of "Protect Joe Burrow AT ALL COSTS," Cincinnati keeps the theme going strong.

32. Detroit Lions (from LAR)

Matt Corral | Mississippi · QB · Junior (RS)

Corral has fans around the league and conceivably could go as high as the top 10. I think Detroit grabs a quarterback (for the fifth-year option) with the 32nd pick.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

LANCE ZIERLEIN – NFL.COM

Last updated: April 12, 2022

Pick 1 - Jacksonville Jaguars

Travon Walker | Georgia · DE · Junior

In a draft without a clear-cut top dog, this Dawg offers outstanding measurables and explosiveness, with high-end upside to cultivate.

Pick 2 - Detroit Lions

Aidan Hutchinson | Michigan · DE · Senior

Dan Campbell's squad fought hard all year in 2021. Adding Hutchinson at a position of need does nothing but bolster the culture the Lions are building.

Pick 3 - Houston Texans

Evan Neal | Alabama · OT · Junior

Neal is big (6-foot-7, 350 pounds), athletic and technically sound. He can play both tackle or guard spots and would be the eventual starting left tackle if Laremy Tunsil were to move on.

Pick 4 - New York Jets

Sauce Gardner | Cincinnati · CB · Junior

Taking Gardner here gives the Jets the top CB in the class while allowing them to search for a talented pass rusher at No. 10 overall.

Pick 5 - New York Giants

Kayvon Thibodeaux | Oregon · Edge · Junior

The Giants need more pass rush, and they'll hope to find just that with this two-way defender who boasts untapped rush potential.

Pick 6 - Carolina Panthers

Charles Cross | Mississippi State · OT · Sophomore (RS)

The Panthers choose to add immediate help rather than draft a developmental quarterback. Cross may be more game-ready as a left tackle than Ickey Ekwonu would be.

Pick 7 - New York Giants (from CHI)

Ickey Ekwonu | N.C. State · OT · Junior

Ekwonu is a guard/tackle prospect with a healthy mean streak and exciting upside, if he can learn to play with more consistency in pass protection.

Pick 8 - Atlanta Falcons

Garrett Wilson | Ohio State · WR · Junior

The Falcons will likely shop this pick, as they have an abundance of needs, but they must come away with a wideout either way -- and the earlier, the better.

Pick 9 - Seattle Seahawks (from DEN)

Derek Stingley Jr. | LSU · CB · Junior

Seattle has needs at cornerback, tackle and quarterback. After his strong pro day, Stingley is likely to carry the highest grade of the remaining talent at those positions.

Pick 10 - New York Jets (from SEA)

Jermaine Johnson II | Florida State · DE · Senior (RS)

Johnson is a plus run defender who flashed exciting upside as a pass-rusher at the Senior Bowl.

Pick 11 - Washington Commanders

Drake London | USC · WR · Junior

London gives Carson Wentz a big (6-5, 210) possession target to throw to while also taking some defensive attention away from Terry McLaurin.

Pick 12 - Minnesota Vikings

Kyle Hamilton | Notre Dame · S · Junior

Hamilton's pedestrian 40 time causes a mini-slide and allows the Vikings to scoop him up and pair him with Harrison Smith on the back end.

Pick 13 - Houston Texans (from CLE)

Devonte Wyatt | Georgia · DT · Senior

This could be a trade-in spot for a team looking to add QB. But if the Texans stand pat here, they could roll with Wyatt, a three-down talent with gap-winning quickness who has the run-stopping ability to play along with Maliek Collins.

Pick 14 - Baltimore Ravens

George Karlaftis | Purdue · Edge · Junior

Karlaftis is a rugged edge defender who can play with a hand down or standing up. He'd fit the Ravens' culture and has underrated power rushing talent.

Pick 15 - Philadelphia Eagles (from MIA)

Trent McDuffie | Washington · CB · Junior

Philadelphia has an obvious void at one cornerback spot, and McDuffie gives the Eagles one of the stickiest, toughest man corners in the draft.

Pick 16 - New Orleans Saints (from IND through PHI)

Malik Willis | Liberty · QB · Senior (RS)

I'm sure New Orleans came into the draft expecting to take a left tackle or receiver with this choice, acquired in a trade earlier this month with the Eagles, but passing on Willis will likely be too difficult if he's there.

Pick 17 - Los Angeles Chargers

Trevor Penning | Northern Iowa · OT · Senior (RS)

This could be a trade-in spot for someone else if tackles fly off the board at a quicker rate than projected. Otherwise, Penning is an easy plug-and-play option for the Chargers.

Pick 18 - Philadelphia Eagles (from NO)

Treylon Burks | Arkansas · WR · Junior

Jalen Hurts needs another weapon on offense, and Burks is one of the most well-rounded in the draft, combining size (6-3, 225), athletic ability, play strength and run-after-the-catch capability.

Pick 19 - New Orleans Saints (from PHI)

Jameson Williams | Alabama · WR · Junior

If New Orleans takes Willis at No. 16, it would only make sense to pair him with a speedy home-run hitter he could grow with over the long haul.

Pick 20 - Pittsburgh Steelers

Kenny Pickett | Pittsburgh · QB · Senior (RS)

Outgoing general manager Kevin Colbert might be salivating over the prospects of adding Georgia defensive tackle Jordan Davis here, but Pickett is an ascending talent who could compete for a starting spot this season.

Pick 21 - New England Patriots

Kenyon Green | Texas A&M · G · Junior

Total Patriots pick right here. Green is big (6-4, 325), tough and reliable, with multi-position flexibility if needed. He's an early starter with Pro Bowl potential.

Pick 22 - Green Bay Packers (from LV)

Jordan Davis | Georgia · DT · Senior

Green Bay needs a receiver, but the Packers won't reach for one if they see a better player on their board. Davis has rare traits, and his best football may be in front of him.

Pick 23 - Kansas City Chiefs (projected trade with Cardinals)

Chris Olave | Ohio State · WR · Senior

You didn't think GM Brett Veach was going to just sit and wait at the back of the draft with all that capital (12 total picks, including Nos. 29 and 30 and six within the first 103), did you?

Pick 24 - Dallas Cowboys

Bernhard Raimann | Central Michigan · OT · Senior

The choice here could come down to Zion Johnson or Raimann. The latter is the better athlete and can play left guard or tackle, which gets him the nod.

Pick 25 - Buffalo Bills

Kaiir Elam | Florida · CB · Junior

What pick do you give the team that has the fewest holes to fill in the draft? It's not an easy call, but Elam is a quality corner with outstanding football IQ.

Pick 26 - Tennessee Titans

Devin Lloyd | Utah · LB · Senior (RS)

Lloyd could be targeted well before this, but if he's still on the board, he's a better option than what the Titans have currently. He's a Mike Vrabel-level tough guy.

Pick 27 - Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Travis Jones | Connecticut · DT · Senior

The big (6-5, 333), long and disruptive Jones should step quickly into the void left by Ndamukong Suh's departure to help Tampa maintain its defensive standards.

Pick 28 - Green Bay Packers

Christian Watson | North Dakota State · WR · Senior (RS)

Doesn't Watson just feel like a Packer? He's a little raw but ridiculously athletic, with the type of size (6-5, 208) that Aaron Rodgers seems to do well with vertically.

Pick 29 - Arizona Cardinals (from SF through MIA) (projected trade with Chiefs)

Breece Hall | Iowa State · RB · Junior

Trading back with the Chiefs give Arizona additional draft capital -- and the Cardinals still get to add a full-package runner with the ability to impact the game on all three downs.

Pick 30 - Kansas City Chiefs

Boye Mafe | Minnesota · Edge · Senior (RS)

With receiver out of the way, the Chiefs turn to bolstering the edge. Mafe's explosiveness and power are exciting traits for defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo to mold.

Pick 31 - Cincinnati Bengals

Kyler Gordon | Washington · CB · Junior (RS)

With offensive line addressed via free agency, the Bengals add a talented but inconsistent cornerback with tremendous upside to help slow down the quarterbacks of the AFC.

Pick 32 - Detroit Lions (via Rams)

Matt Corral | Mississippi · QB · Junior (RS)

I have a funny feeling that the Lions may get frisky and jump up the board for a QB at some point, but if they sit tight, Corral has plenty of talent to become their future starter.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

PETER KING – NBC SPORTS

Last updated: April 25, 2022

1. Jacksonville Jaguars

Travon Walker, defensive lineman, Georgia

Expect a surprise, I heard out of Jacksonville recently. Hmmm. That would eliminate Aidan Hutchinson here. The trendy pick after that has been Walker, so that really wouldn't be much of a surprise. Ikem Ekwonu, perhaps? I'll go with the one-year-college-start upside guy, Walker.

It's risky, and I'm as skeptical of one-year wonders as the next mock-drafter, but it falls into GM Trent Baalke's history of taking the athletic playmakers. I've got a video to show you about Walker.

You want to know why people around the NFL are smitten with Walker? The effort on this play—in the biggest game of his career, with other guys on his defense not selling out the way Walker was—is a big thing to football people. The troubling part for Walker and his 9.5 career sacks in 29 games is that if he's the pick, the comparisons to Hutchinson will be forever. That's something Baalke had better factor in.

2. Detroit Lions

Aidan Hutchinson, edge, Michigan

"A real Dan Campbell player," one NFL GM told me about the steadiest player in this draft. Campbell got a lot of people to chuckle when he talked about wanting players who want to bite kneecaps. It was his way of saying he wants guys who love football, who don't take off plays, who won't allow the Lions to be downtrodden anymore. Ask scouts about Hutchinson and they'll tell you that's how he played every one of his 43 career games in Ann Arbor.

Hutchinson is a different cat. He's been journaling—hand-writing, not typing—since he was 4. Some days he writes what he wants to be, he told me. "Just telling myself that I'm limitless," he said. "I have an infinite mindset. I have no boundaries. There's no mountain that I can't reach. That's how I view myself and me playing football." Tell me Dan Campbell's not going to froth at the mouth if GM Brad Holmes has the chance to draft this 6-6, 260-pound 10-year starter.

Final note: Some late buzz about the Lions being smitten with Kayvon Thibodeaux and strongly considering him here. I just can't see them passing on Hutchinson.

3. Houston Texans

Ikem Ekwonu, offensive tackle, North Carolina State

If you're the Texans, you're really drafting for 2024. GM Nick Caserio's got to be thinking of the long haul, and the long haul probably doesn't consist of Laremy Tunsil and Brandin Cooks, both of whom will be 30 on opening-day 2024. So if you're smart, and you've seen the top two edge guys go 1-2, you draft into the strength of this crop, tackle and wideout. Ekwonu is versatile and athletic, not the mauler that the other two top tackles are, but a cornerstone and smart lineman who should be the long-time leader of a currently lousy group.

4. New York Jets

Sauce Gardner, cornerback, Cincinnati

I know lots of people I like and trust are going Kayvon Thibodeaux here, but I'm leery. (By the way, notice the trend of the 2022 first round? "I wouldn't rule out Kayvon Thibodeaux here," 614 GMs and other football people said in the last week. I know, I know.) Jets GM Joe Douglas loves safe, and he especially loves safe when the stud (or so we thought) first-round pick of 2020, tackle Mekhi Becton, has struggled and has a major question mark over his head entering this season. Gardner might not have the feet or hips of Derek Stingley, but he has the consistent production, is highly competitive, and in a division with Tyreek Hill and Stefon Diggs (and Gabriel Davis), and whatever Bill Belichick has in store for the Jets, that's six games a year when a top corner will be invaluable. And the Jets don't have one.

5. New York Giants

Charles Cross, offensive tackle, Mississippi State

Lots of spy versus spy here. By that I mean, at first blush, it's logical to think GM Joe Schoen would want the best available right tackle here, with Andrew Thomas set on the left side. And because Cross was consistently on the left side in college, and Evan Neal started a season each at left tackle and right tackle, Neal's a better fit here. And it may be Neal. Who wouldn't want a 40-game starter at a great program in the SEC? But what many don't know is the Giants put Cross through some work to judge whether he'd be a good right-tackle candidate and came away happy that he would be. Cross, one GM told me, is the best pass-protector of the three top tackles, a power-forward type (6-7 ½, 335) who will be competitive on day one against good edge rushers. If the Giants are comfortable enough with his ability to play the right side, this is a solid pick.

6. Carolina Panthers

Evan Neal, offensive tackle, Alabama

I don't know what Carolina will do. The Panthers could go Kenny Pickett here, because unless they trade their first-round pick next year to move into position to acquire another high pick, they won't pick again till day three of the draft; they don't have a second- or third-rounder currently. I know what they should do, and that's take Neal if he's there. The Panthers are as needy on the line as they are at quarterback, and there's definitely not a sure long-term QB in this draft. Neal started 15 games at left tackle, 12 at right tackle and 13 at left guard in his three Alabama seasons. There's been some chatter about teams downgrading him because of medical issues, but I'm told at least three-quarters of the teams in the league are good with his health. I won't be shocked if they go Pickett or Malik Willis here, but the smarter play is getting a solution with versatility at a major need area.

7. New York Giants

Kyle Hamilton, safety, Notre Dame

Just a warning: Don't be shocked if the Giants go Thibodeaux here. Lots of stuff out in the ether right now about the Giants being down on Thibodeaux, but I can tell you they're interested and have done a ton of work on him since his Pro Day. Also, the Giants would love to deal this pick and recoup a 2023 first-round pick and go down, say, 10 to 12 spots so they still could get a strong prospect plus be in prime position in the '23 first round.

So the call here is Hamilton, despite the fact the Giants have a good young third-year safety in Xavier McKinney. New defensive coordinator Wink Martindale loves versatile safeties, which is precisely what Hamilton is. He's huge (6-4, 220) and instinctive, and can blitz, play sideline to sideline and play down in the box as an extra linebacker. This pick would make the Giants' secondary tough to gameplan against because of the versatility of McKinney and Hamilton.

8. Atlanta Falcons

Drake London, wide receiver, USC

Kind of the first "they could do five things here" pick. I'm going with the receiver I hear they love. Some teams knocked London for not running a 40 in the runup to the draft after a late-October broken ankle caused him to miss USC's last four games; he's estimated at about 4.5, which is not top-end speed. Everything else about his game is top-end. His average game in 2021 (15 targets, 11 catches, 136 yards, one TD) was notable. Everyone knew the ball was coming to him, and his competitiveness in multiple coverages caught eyes. To keep up that level of production game after game is something that separates London from the other receivers in this crop. As for the Falcons' need at wideout: When the guys in three-receiver formations look to be Olamide Zaccheaus, Auden Tate and Damiere Byrd … I rest my case.

**Projected Trade: Texans trade the 13th pick overall and an early third-round pick, 68th overall, to the Seahawks for the 9th selection.*

9. Houston Texans

Garrett Wilson, wide receiver, Ohio State

And so here comes the run on receivers. Houston leapfrogs the Jets to get the franchise receiver for Davis Mills (who has a chance this year to win this job) or whoever the Texans pick next year to be the franchise passer. There's a lot of love for Wilson in the league, even though he never led Ohio State in receiving in any of his three years and he's a lean (6-0, 183) receiver who probably won't play much heavier. He played the slot in 2020 and outside last year, so teams have plenty of tape to see him play all over the field in different offenses. Team like his ability to get open and to make things happen after the catch.

I look at Houston's draft this way. Post-Watson, the Texans need some franchise players. If they come out of this draft with a long-term left tackle and a top receiver who can be counted on for the next five to eight years, it's a profitable draft. Plus: GM Nick Caserio has the 37th overall pick, and he could use that on a second-level cornerback (Washington's Kyler Gordon?) to attack another need area.

10. New York Jets

Jameson Williams, wide receiver, Alabama

The luxury for the constantly rebuilding Jets in taking a guy coming off a Jan. 10 ACL injury is that they don't need to be in a hurry, and Williams, to many, was the draft's top wideout before the injury. So whether he plays in late October or by Dec. 1 is not a make-or-break factor in what they do. Williams will be the number one receiver Zach Wilson needs to have a chance to be a good long-term quarterback. However the receivers line up on GM Joe Douglas' board, getting one of the top three wideouts and Sauce Gardner in the first round would be a win for a franchise that hasn't had enough of them.

11. Washington Commanders

Chris Olave, wide receiver, Ohio State

How cool would it be if it fell Wilson-Williams-Olave … teammates at Ohio State in 2019 and 2020 before Williams transferred to Alabama? They combined for 40 touchdowns last season in Columbus and Tuscaloosa. I wish I could figure a way for Olave to fall to Green Bay, because with his precision route-running and vaunted football smarts, he'd be a perfect 2022 fit for Aaron Rodgers. But I can't see him lasting to the twenties. The fourth of four straight wideouts makes too much sense for Washington, which I think loves Drake London but will be thrilled with the sub-4.4 speed and top football IQ of Olave.

12. Minnesota Vikings

Derek Stingley, cornerback, LSU

There are good fits, and there is Stingley in Minnesota, where he'd be coached by his old defensive coordinator at LSU, secondary coach Daronte Jones, and he'd be mentored by former Tiger corner Patrick Peterson. This is a dream scenario for the Vikings. Stingley's career fell off a cliff after a strong 2019 season, the same way the LSU program fell off a cliff in the last two years of Ed Orgeron. In '19, Stingley battled in practice with J'Marr Chase and played high-level in games; some scouts thought he was the best corner in the country as a true freshman. Fate smiles on rookie Vikings GM Kwesi Adofo-Mensah on his first NFL draft choice—if indeed he can pick Stingley. "I think he was the best NFL prospect in the country as a freshman," one GM told me, "and his workout this spring showed a lot of [Darrelle] Revis to me."

**Projected Trade: Texans trade the 13th pick overall and an early third-round pick, 68th overall, to the Seahawks for the 9th selection.*

13. Seattle Seahawks

Kayvon Thibodeaux, edge, Oregon

Perfect Pete Carroll pick. Thibodeaux's an LA kid, he'll be supremely ticked off at not being the first edge off the board and falling this far, and Carroll knows how to feed into the mental game that fuels players. That, plus Thibodeaux would be the kind of top talent that the Seahawks never get to pick in the draft because they're always picking at the bottom of the round, or later. Thibodeaux, if he works out, would be a good pick for a team devoid of a top-end pass-rusher, in a division with some serious passing games.

I'd like this pick, in this spot, for Seattle. I'm not alone. "Thibodeaux at 13 would be a coup for Seattle," one GM told me Sunday when I apprised him of my diabolical plan to send the Oregon edge down the draft board.

14. Baltimore Ravens

Trevor Penning, offensive tackle, Northern Iowa

Kudos to Good Morning Football's Peter Schrager for IDing Penning to the Ravens. The fourth tackle, clearly, on boards around the league would be a very good fit in Baltimore, where there's a hole at right tackle (31-year-old Morgan Moses due to fill it as of today) and where left tackle Ronnie Stanley has struggled to stay healthy. Penning started 31 games at left tackle for Northern Iowa, and his size (6-7, 325) would play well on either side. I think the Ravens feel good enough about Stanley's future to not be forced into taking a tackle here. Picking a corner (Trent McDuffie would be very good value) will not surprise me.

15. Philadelphia Eagles

Jordan Davis, defensive tackle, Georgia

Flip a coin here. Davis or Trent McDuffie. (And won't WIP have a good laugh at my expense when the pick is neither guy.) But I'll go with Davis because of his freakish athleticism at 335, his ability to impact the game all over the defensive front, and the prospect that he can succeed Fletcher Cox (32 in December) as the toughest guy to block on the Philadelphia defensive front.

The best thing I heard about Davis after his 4.78-second dash at the combine (at 341 pounds) was from one coach who thought Davis could play nose on first down and three-technique (the interior rush player) on second and third downs. That's not common. He didn't have great college production—19.5 tackles behind the line in 47 games at Georgia—and that would be a big concern to me. But someone will take him in the middle of the round, because he's got such great potential.

16. New Orleans Saints

Treylon Burks, wide receiver, Arkansas

He'd be the physical presence to play opposite the returning Michael Thomas in the Saints' attack, which is desperate for a receiver. A few words about the Saints' intentions here, in the wake of their trade with Philadelphia two weeks ago leaving them with 16 and 19, then 49 in round two. New Orleans was chided for adding a mid-first-round pick this year, with the feeling that this wasn't a good year to have a second pick in the middle of a mediocre round. But the way the Saints look at is different. The Saints think they're better than Tampa Bay, and winning the four regular-season matchups against Tom Brady by 11, 35, 9 and 9 points would buttress that argument. The Saints have had a top-five scoring defense two years in a row. They need another weapon on offense.

There's also the feeling around the NFL that after losing Drew Brees one year and Sean Payton the next, the Saints are due to slip back. That is decidedly not the feeling in the building, nor with new coach Dennis Allen. Saints GM Mickey Loomis wants to give Allen the chance to be an impact playoff team with two or three big contributors in 2022. I cannot argue with that logic.

17. Los Angeles Chargers

Trent McDuffie, cornerback, Washington

If Jordan Davis is here, I bet the Chargers are tempted. Brandon Staley loves very big, very athletic people on his front seven. But the third corner off the board would be more valuable to the Chargers, I think, and give them a formidable threesome (J.C. Jackson, Asante Samuel Jr., McDuffie) to attack the Mahomes/Wilson/Carr trio of top QBs on the Chargers' schedule every year.

I looked into the buzz that the Chargers would try to move up to get a Trevor Penning, a long-term bookend for Rashawn Slater to protect Justin Herbert. It's possible, because the Ravens are always amenable to dealing down when there's not one player they're desperate for.

**Projected Trade: Eagles trade the 18th pick to the Packers for the 22nd pick and a late third-round pick, 92nd overall.*

18. Green Bay Packers

Jahan Dotson, wide receiver, Penn State

Surprising for the sixth receiver in the round, if this is how it goes. Dotson is a better version of Randall Cobb, with maybe the best hands in the draft. Started 38 games and had 183 catches at Penn State. The knock on Dotson is he's not as physically strong as his peers, and he'll need to be feistier and a little bulkier to be a consistent weapon for Aaron Rodgers.

All along, I tried everything I could to get Chris Olave to the Packers. Barring a huge tradeup that might cost Brian Gutekunst next year's first-round pick, it's hard to see one of the top four receivers landing in Green Bay. Dotson's a good alternative. He's just not Olave.

19. New Orleans Saints

Devonte Wyatt, defensive tackle, Georgia

It's either reach for CB4 or take one of the best two defensive tackles in the class and get the corner in the middle of the second round. This is what I'd do. Wyatt is probably the best three-technique in this class, and, like Travon Walker, was a versatile fit on the Georgia front. I bet Cam Jordan would lead the parade for Wyatt, knowing that attention Wyatt would draw in the middle of the line would give Jordan more chances to impact the game on the edge. Amazing: Georgia could have three defensive front players (Walker, Davis, Wyatt) get drafted in the top 20, three players who played a lot on the interior. I'd love to know if that ever happened before.

20. Pittsburgh Steelers

Kenny Pickett, quarterback, Pitt

Upset special: Pickett over Malik Willis—and it's a gut feeling more than anything else. How cool would it be if the Steelers, who passed on Pitt's Dan Marino is 1983 when a successor to Terry Bradshaw was desperately needed (they picked Gabe Rivera) would 39 years later take Pitt's Pickett to be the long-term sub for Ben Roethlisberger? Pretty cool to think Pickett, who for the entirety of his college career has walked into the door to the right of the Steelers/Pitt complex on the South side of the gritty city, might walk into the left door as a pro now.

We've gotten so used to excoriating any team that would even think of drafting a quarterback high this year that we haven't just sat back and considered, "Maybe Kenny Pickett is actually, you know, good." It's true that you can find two or three throws that any quarterback makes to make him seem really good or really bad. But you've got to have some level of talent to make the first throw on this Greg Cosell analysis of Pickett.

That ball traveled 39 yards in the air, was a perfect strike, and came with Pickett under pressure and on the run. A big-time NFL throw. Could it be Willis here? Yes, it could. I wouldn't he surprised. But I've heard the Steelers think Pickett's more likely to succeed as a pro.

21. New England Patriots

Bernhard Raimann, offensive tackle, Central Michigan

Toyed with Nakobe Dean. Toyed with Devin Lloyd. Toyed with Jermaine Johnson. Toyed with Lewis Cine, who is Bill Belichick's kind of player. Even toyed with the corner who might go around 45th overall, Kyler Gordon. But the secondary tackle market is better than the secondary edge or corner market, for sure.

Raimann is one of the best stories in this draft, by far. Austrian kid who first played football on a club team in Vienna at 14. As a high school exchange student, he played receiver on his Michigan high school team for a year. Back to Austria to finish high school. Bitten by the football bug. Committed to Central Michigan for the 2017 season—but had to fulfill a six-month Austrian military commitment, so he didn't start working with the team till 2018. Tight end for two years. Then the pandemic. When football practice began again, Raimann was moved to tackle as a 290-pound player, and he started 18 games at left tackle in the last 1.5 seasons.

Big, big upside—and the Patriots can likely use 2022 as a developmental year if they pick him. Great point by Daniel Jeremiah: "Reminds me of the Sebastian Vollmer pick." The native of Germany played college football at Houston, and was a second-round pick of the Pats in 2009—and played on two Super Bowl-winning teams. The Patriots would take a replay of that, as would Mac Jones.

**Projected Trade: Eagles trade the 18th pick to the Packers for the 22nd pick and a late third-round pick, 92nd overall.*

22. Philadelphia Eagles

Devin Lloyd, linebacker, Utah

Dart throw. Howie Roseman could trade down again here. The receiver and corner markets, both of which he needs to hit before the end of day two, don't align with what's left on the board in this mock. Lloyd had experience doing everything in 32 starts over three Utah seasons. His 43 career tackles for loss show he's a play-wrecker in the run game too.

One other point about Lloyd, wherever he goes: NFL Network will have an emotional feature story Thursday night about the two Utah players lost to gun violence in 2021. I'm told Lloyd's words will be emotional and heavy in the piece—he was the Utah captain who had a huge burden on his shoulders helping his teammates get through the double-ordeal.

23. Arizona Cardinals

Jermaine Johnson, edge, Florida State

I think the Cards would love to get another weapon for Kyler Murray, and if I were GM Steve Keim I'd define that weapon differently. I'd be looking just as fervently at the offensive line that put Murray under so much pressure last season; fixing his protection is as important as getting him a home-run threat—especially when there are no more home-run threats left now the way I mock it.

So why Johnson here? Because of the big need to find a pass-rusher two years after the departure of Haason Reddick and a month after the loss of Chandler Jones. I understand the pick, but I'd probably pick Zion Johnson instead.

24. Dallas Cowboys

Tyler Linderbaum, center, Iowa

Tea leaves pick, because of Dallas' love of building the offensive line (Travis Frederick, Zack Martin, Tyron Smith); because of high regard for Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz; and because Linderbaum is rated consistently the best center and a top-20 overall prospect on many boards. Which, for a guy who plays only one position, is saying something. Linderbaum is a rock-solid center, with 35 starts at the position over the past three years. He's a little undersized for NFL center (6-2, 298) and doesn't have position versatility—at least not yet. But he's a physical, competitive player with the Ferentz pedigree. Iowa turns out terrific offensive linemen.

25. Buffalo Bills

Zion Johnson, offensive lineman, Boston College

One of the very few issues that Buffalo has is at guard where Rodger Saffold is due to start at right guard this year at age 34 and the undrafted Ryan Bates is the likely left guard. To me, Johnson's the perfect call here because even if Saffold and Bates turn out great in 2022, it seems a short-term fix. In five college seasons—two years at Davidson, one at BC after transferring—Johnson started 49 games. Give me a guy with 36 starts at guard and 13 at left tackle (in the ACC). Give me a guy who was a two-year captain after transferring. Give me a guy who never missed a game in five college seasons due to injury (58 games played in all). He's a likely interior lineman, which lessens his value slightly. But his intelligence, football acumen and experience gives NFL GMs confidence Johnson can be a starter in 2022.

26. Tennessee Titans

Tyler Smith, offensive tackle, Tulsa

I chickened out. Originally I penciled in: Malik Willis, quarterback, Liberty. Thought process: Titans earn top seed in AFC playoffs. Quarterback Ryan Tannehill throws three picks in the first playoff game, including one in the final minute that allows Cincinnati to kick a field goal and knock Tennessee out of the playoffs. Coach, GM sign extensions. Building has hard time getting over toothless loss to Cincinnati. Tannehill, because of onerous contract cap number in 2022, has to be kept for this season but if he is mediocre, Titans can move on next March. If he is mediocre, maybe Titans can get a rookie ready to play by Thanksgiving this year.

As you can see, some real science was used to make that choice. But the Titans have not been front and center at the QB workouts this spring. And with left tackle Taylor Lewan turning 31 in July, it's time to invest in the tackle market—particularly after the Isaiah Wilson first-round debacle of two years ago. They've got to feel Smith is a sure thing here.

27. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

David Ojabo, edge, Michigan

Ojabo tore his Achilles at the Michigan Pro Day and likely will not play football in 2022. Before the injury, he was considered a prospect to go somewhere between seven and 15. I don't know that he'll get picked in the first, but I do know four teams are intently interested in him. One is having some significant medical tests done on him in the next two days, to see how his recovery is progressing and to judge whether he can play maybe very late this season or, if not, how healthy he will be a year from now.

Ojabo was the complement to Aidan Hutchinson on the Michigan defensive front, and his will and tenacity are much admired. If you're the Bucs, you might not need the edge play of Ojabo this year. But with veteran rusher Shaq Barrett due to be 31 next year and the unsigned Jason Pierre Paul likely a one-year play this year if that, a duo of Ojabo and Joe Tryon-Shoyinka for the future is something the Bucs would love to have going forward.

28. Green Bay Packers

Arnold Ebiketie, edge, Penn State

This has shades of a late-first-round Penn State riser at edge from last year, Odafe Oweh. Ebiketie, a native of Cameroon, moved to the Washington area when his dad got a job at the Cameroon Embassy. Ebiketie fell in love with football. And now, with the Pack having lost Za'Darius Smith to the casualties of the cap, a promising edge player would fit well.

I do make this proviso: The Packers may need this pick, or one of two in the second round, to move up significantly to take a receiver to replace Davante Adams. This pick could be one of the most interesting in the round because of all the directions GM Brian Gutekunst could go. He could move way up to target a Chris Olave around 10th, or he could (as I predict) move up a lesser number of spots to take a lesser receiver. Green Bay's a fascinating team in round 1.

29. Kansas City Chiefs

Christian Watson, wide receiver, North Dakota State

I am going to have Kansas City keep both picks here, 29 and 30, because I don't have a great idea of what to do with them … unless GM Brett Veach gets very bold and uses both and maybe something more to move up in range to get one of the best receivers in the draft. Kansas City lost Tyreek Hill and replaced him with lesser free agents; Green Bay lost Davante Adams and replaced him with no one except Sammy Watkins. Both teams are likely to try to make a score in the draft at receiver.

If the Chiefs don't put a ransom together to move up to the eight-to-12 area of the first round, I think the 6-4 and blossoming Watson is a strong play here. He runs sub-4.4, he's played in significant bad weather, and he averaged a huge 20.4 yards per catch against lesser competition. He could be the kind of receiver Andy Reid lets learn and play a small role this year, while getting him ready for 2023. The reward could be good.

30. Kansas City Chiefs

Lewis Cine, safety, Georgia

One of the great stories in this draft, and one of the players scouts like the most. Cine (pronounced “Seen”) was born in Haiti to a 16-year-old mom; it’s why he wore “16” at Georgia. His early life was split between Haiti and Florida, and he moved to Massachusetts to be with his dad for a few years, then finished high school in Dallas. That’s where he was tutored by Deion Sanders as a player and became a big-time recruit. At 6-2 ¼ and 200 pounds, he runs a 4.37 40-yard dash and hits like a strong safety. “What a lot of us like about him is he’s a natural leader, and he played his best in the biggest games,” said one GM. That includes being the defensive MVP in the national championship game against Alabama. Kansas City would be a good spot for him, and he could make a 2022 impact.

31. Cincinnati Bengals

Trey McBride, tight end, Colorado State

Warning: The Bengals will have options to trade out of this pick, and they’re a more willing trade team on draft weekend than they used to be. This is a golden spot to trade up and get the fifth-year luxury that a late first-round pick would provide, particularly with a team seeing quarterbacks remaining on the board. (First-round picks are in team control pre-free-agency for five years; second-rounders, four years.)

As for the tight end need, the Bengals are still in mourning after losing valuable starter C.J. Uzomah and his 965 snaps last year to the Jets in free agency. The Bengals did sign Hayden Hurst, but the former first-round Raven will be playing for his third team in four years; I doubt he’s the every-down tight end Cincinnati lost in Uzomah. McBride’s a versatile player with an excellent résumé at Colorado State as an inline blocker and a possession receiver. He caught a team-high 90 balls last year in a run-first offense. “McBride would be a classic Mike Brown pick,” one veteran GM told me. “He likes to use draft choices to fill holes.”

**Projected Trade: Lions trade the 32nd pick to the Falcons for a second-round pick this year (43rd overall) and a second-round pick in 2023.*

32. Atlanta Falcons

Matt Corral, quarterback, Ole Miss

This is all about a team, Atlanta, believing in a quarterback this year, and investing a chunk of draft capital in him that isn’t cost-prohibitive. (I hear the Falcons like Corral.) If you think you might have a long-term quarterback and it costs you two second-round picks, is that really a major cost? No, it’s not. This pick is not something I’m convinced about. It’s more about the concept of it. If a team wants a quarterback but isn’t positive about this group, it can still invest in one. It’s a conservative investment, keeping in mind that quarterbacks don’t come cheap. If you really want Corral or Malik Willis or Desmond Ridder, wouldn’t you think a price of two second-round picks would be worth the risk?

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

PETE PRISCO – CBSSPORTS.COM

Last updated: April 6, 2022

Round 1 - Pick 1

Evan Neal OL

ALABAMA • JR • 6'7" / 337 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Jacksonville	4th	1st

They will strongly consider Aidan Hutchinson, but I think in the end they get another piece to help out Trevor Lawrence. He could play guard for a year if needed.

Round 1 - Pick 2

Aidan Hutchinson EDGE

MICHIGAN • SR • 6'7" / 260 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Detroit	2nd	1st

The Lions would love this scenario, getting a local kid and filling a need. Hutchinson to the Lions is a perfect pick for both sides.

Round 1 - Pick 3

Travon Walker DL

GEORGIA • JR • 6'5" / 272 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Houston	13th	1st

They need to get edge help, which is why I think they would pass on taking Ikem Ekwonu with this pick. Walker has the tools to be a star off the edge.

Round 1 - Pick 4

Kayvon Thibodeaux

EDGE

OREGON • SOPH • 6'4" / 254 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
N.Y. Jets	5th	2nd

The Jets have to get help for their pass rush. While Thibodeaux has fallen some, there is a lot to like with his game. Robert Saleh would love to add this type of edge player.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

PETE PRISCO – CBSSPORTS.COM

Round 1 - Pick 5

Ikem Ekwonu OL
NC STATE • SOPH • 6'4" / 310 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
N.Y. Giants	10th	4th

They need to improve their line, and Ekwonu would pair with Andrew Thomas to give them a nice duo of young tackles. He could also play guard, with some scouts thinking he's better off inside.

Round 1 - Pick 6

Malik Willis QB
LIBERTY • JR • 6'1" / 219 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Carolina	23rd	1st

This is way too high for my taste for Willis, but desperate teams do desperate things. The Panthers are desperate. They could also consider Kenny Pickett here.

Round 1 - Pick 7

From Chicago Bears

Jermaine Johnson II
EDGE
FLORIDA STATE • SR • 6'5" / 254 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
N.Y. Giants	20th	3rd

Like the Jets, they need more help pass rush help. After adding a tackle with their earlier pick, now they can add a rush player who is coming off an impressive season.

Round 1 - Pick 8

Kenny Pickett QB
PITTSBURGH • SR • 6'3" / 217 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Atlanta	30th	2nd

They could opt to pass on a quarterback here, but this is another team that badly needs to fill the position. Receiver and corner could also be in play here.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

PETE PRISCO – CBSSPORTS.COM

Round 1 - Pick 9 — From Denver Broncos

Charles Cross OL

MISSISSIPPI STATE • SOPH • 6'5" / 307 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Seattle	8th	2nd

They have to improve their offensive line, and Cross could step in and start at left tackle right away. Both tackles from last year are gone for now.

Round 1 - Pick 10 — From Seattle Seahawks

Ahmad Gardner CB

CINCINNATI • JR • 6'3" / 190 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
N.Y. Jets	3rd	1st

After taking a pass rusher earlier, they come back and take the top corner in this draft. Gardner will add a nice, long corner to a defense that needs that to match up with the Bills.

Round 1 - Pick 11

Kyle Hamilton S

NOTRE DAME • JR • 6'4" / 220 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Washington	1st	1st

He is a playmaker on the back end who can give them a player who can drop down to help in the run game. His 40 time disappointed, but he will still go in the first round. I would go receiver here, but I could see Hamilton being the pick.

Round 1 - Pick 12

Derek Stingley Jr. CB

LSU • JR • 6'0" / 195 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Minnesota	6th	2nd

They brought back Patrick Peterson on a one-year deal, so why not add a player from his college? Peterson can help develop Stingley, who would be higher in this mock if he were healthy for most of his career.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

PETE PRISCO – CBSSPORTS.COM

Round 1 - Pick 13 — From Cleveland Browns

Jordan Davis DL

GEORGIA • SR • 6'6" / 341 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Houston	18th	2nd

This is a player who can solidify any team's run defense. He is a power player who will improve as a pass rusher. Some scouts think he goes top-10 overall.

Round 1 - Pick 14

Trent McDuffie CB

WASHINGTON • SOPH • 5'11" / 193 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Baltimore	22nd	4th

They play a lot of man coverage and adding a corner makes sense. He isn't a big corner, but he has the tools to fit what they want from their defense.

Round 1 - Pick 15 — From Miami Dolphins

Jameson Williams WR

ALABAMA • JR • 6'2" / 179 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Philadelphia	11th	2nd

This is a risky pick since he's coming off a torn ACL, but he's running again and should be ready by mid-season. This would give the Eagles a game-changer.

Round 1 - Pick 16 — From Philadelphia Eagles

Desmond Ridder QB

CINCINNATI • SR • 6'3" / 211 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
New Orleans	75th	5th

They traded this week to get this pick, so they have to take a shot on a quarterback. Ridder is the best option here. I think he has a chance to be really good.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

PETE PRISCO – CBSSPORTS.COM

Round 1 - Pick 17

Trevor Penning OL

NORTHERN IOWA • JR • 6'7" / 321 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
L.A. Chargers	35th	8th

The right tackle spot remains a concern for the Chargers. Penning is an aggressive player who will give them a solid player to step in and start right away.

Round 1 - Pick 18 — From New Orleans Saints

George Karlaftis EDGE

PURDUE • JR • 6'4" / 266 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Philadelphia	27th	4th

They have to get help for their pass rush. Age is starting to become a bit of an issue on their front. Karlaftis will help.

Round 1 - Pick 19 — From Philadelphia Eagles

Garrett Wilson WR

OHIO STATE • JR • 6'0" / 183 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
New Orleans	7th	1st

They take the quarterback and now add a speed threat to go with him. Wilson is a big-time player who will help the passing game.

Round 1 - Pick 20

Matt Corral QB

OLE MISS • JR • 6'2" / 212 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Pittsburgh	32nd	3rd

They signed Mitch Trubisky, but he isn't the long-term answer. Corral would perfectly fit what they want to do with their passing game.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

PETE PRISCO – CBSSPORTS.COM

Round 1 - Pick 21

Jalen Pitre S

BAYLOR • SR • 5'11" / 198 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
New England	41st	5th

Versatile defensive backs are the Bill Belichick way, and Pitre would bring that skillset to the Patriots. He can play up near the line or in the middle of the field. He will be better than Kyle Hamilton, who will go earlier in this round.

Round 1 - Pick 22

From **Las Vegas Raiders**

Drake London WR

USC • JR • 6'4" / 219 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Green Bay	12th	3rd

London is a big receiver in the Mike Evans mold. He is coming off an injury, so there is a concern, but he would help give Aaron Rodgers a big weapon down the field.

Round 1 - Pick 23

Boye Mafe DL

MINNESOTA • SR • 6'4" / 265 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Arizona	24th	3rd

With Chandler Jones gone, they have to amp up the pass rush. Mafe is a player who really came on last season and has the tools to do it.

Round 1 - Pick 24

Tyler Linderbaum OL

IOWA • JR • 6'2" / 296 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Dallas	9th	3rd

They could go a variety of ways here in terms of position, but I think they need to get better in the middle of their line. Linderbaum is the best of this center class.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

PETE PRISCO – CBSSPORTS.COM

Round 1 - Pick 25

Andrew Booth Jr. CB

CLEMSON • JR • 6'0" / 194 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Buffalo	17th	3rd

The corner position remains the one spot with concerns for the Bills. Booth could come in and push Dane Jackson.

Round 1 - Pick 26

Tyler Smith OL

TULSA • SOPH • 6'4" / 324 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Tennessee	45th	10th

The right tackle spot is a concern. Smith is a player NFL scouts like a lot more than the draft media does. Smith could play right tackle and then take over on the left side down the road.

Round 1 - Pick 27

Devonte Wyatt DL

GEORGIA • SR • 6'3" / 307 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Tampa Bay	29th	4th

They need another inside player to go with Vita Vea. There is talk they could bring Ndamukong Suh back, but if not Wyatt would be a nice replacement.

Round 1 - Pick 28

Chris Olave WR

OHIO STATE • SR • 6'0" / 187 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Green Bay	25th	5th

They go receiver-receiver with their two picks. Why not? Without Davante Adams, they need help in the worst way.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

PETE PRISCO – CBSSPORTS.COM

Round 1 - Pick 29 — From Miami Dolphins

Jahan Dotson WR

PENN STATE • SR • 5'11" / 178 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Kansas City	40th	7th

They need to find a replacement for Tyreek Hill, and Dotson would give them a nice speed threat. Nobody is Hill, but Dotson can run.

Round 1 - Pick 30

Kaiir Elam CB

FLORIDA • JR • 6'2" / 191 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Kansas City	46th	6th

They lost Charvarius Ward in free agency to the 49ers, so drafting a young replacement would be ideal. Elam could step in and start right away.

Round 1 - Pick 31

Kyler Gordon CB

WASHINGTON • SOPH • 6'0" / 194 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Cincinnati	53rd	7th

It looks like Trent McDuffie, his teammate at Washington, will go earlier, but Gordon might be the better NFL player. With Eli Apple on a one-year deal, they need to get a young corner.

Round 1 - Pick 32 — From Los Angeles Rams

Treylon Burks WR

ARKANSAS • JR • 6'2" / 225 LBS

PROJECTED TEAM	PROSPECT RNK	POSITION RNK
Detroit	15th	4th

If Ridder were still here, they could consider that. But instead they add to their receiver group by taking Burks.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

CHAD REUTER – NFL.COM

Last updated: April 22, 2022

Pick 1 - Jacksonville Jaguars

Aidan Hutchinson | Michigan · Edge · Senior

We're less than a week away from the draft, and we still really don't know who will be the No. 1 overall pick. If the Jags go edge rusher, I'll stick with a proven commodity like Hutchinson over the exceptional athleticism and potential of Travon Walker. Hutchinson is the defensive equivalent of former No. 1 overall pick (and fellow Michigan alum) Jake Long: solid, intelligent and reliable. You can add explosive and relentless to Hutchinson's long list of traits, as well.

Pick 2 - Detroit Lions

Kenny Pickett | Pittsburgh · QB · Senior (RS)

Head coach Dan Campbell told local media earlier this month he wanted the Lions to get an immediate contributor with the No. 2 pick, while acknowledging GM Brad Holmes has a responsibility to look toward the future. Pickett can fit both of those descriptions, as his experience will allow him to play as a rookie if veteran starter Jared Goff is injured or ineffective. The former Pitt Panther's athleticism adds an extra dimension to his game that will help him succeed in Detroit.

Pick 3 - Houston Texans

Sauce Gardner | Cincinnati · CB · Junior

The Texans grab a force on the outside in Gardner, whose tenacious attitude and length are a rare combination. He always showed chase ability in college, but proving at the NFL Scouting Combine that he possesses elite speed (4.41 40-yard dash) puts him in the same class as recent top-five CB picks Jeff Okudah, Denzel Ward and Jalen Ramsey.

Pick 4 – New York Jets

Travon Walker | Georgia · DL · Junior

Walker's a nice fit in Robert Saleh's scheme, possessing the length and movement skills to play inside or outside like two defenders Saleh coached in San Francisco: Arik Armstead and DeForest Buckner. There is a risk in taking a player with minimal production over multiple years (at least in terms of the stat sheet), but Georgia's defense was so talented that Jermaine Johnson II (selected ninth overall in this mock) had to transfer to Florida State to get playing time. Schemes and heavy rotations can hide a prospect's potential.

Pick 5 - New York Giants

Ickey Ekwonu | N.C. State · OT · Junior

Ekwonu will be Saquon Barkley's new best friend at right tackle, moving defenders out of the hole to aid the former Rookie of the Year's bid at a bounce-back campaign. Defenders will also have a rough go at trying to break through Ickey's wide frame and long arms to reach Daniel Jones in the pocket.

Pick 6 - Carolina Panthers

Evan Neal | Alabama · OT · Junior

I'm assuming the Panthers work out a deal for a veteran quarterback (namely Jimmy Garoppolo or Baker Mayfield) to compete with Sam Darnold, probably in exchange for future picks. Neal's Adonis-like build and length solidifies the left tackle spot for the Panthers, benefitting whichever quarterback is leading the team in 2022.

Pick 7 - New York Giants (from CHI)

Kayvon Thibodeaux | Oregon · Edge · Junior

The Giants find themselves a powerful rusher to pair with last year's second-round selection, Azeez Ojulari. Thibodeaux can move in space and also kick inside in sub-packages, making him a valuable chess piece.

Pick 8 - Atlanta Falcons

Malik Willis | Liberty · QB · Senior (RS)

Willis falls into a great situation in Atlanta, learning the NFL game while working with consummate professional Marcus Mariota. I'm looking forward to seeing how Willis' game grows over time -- and watching defenses struggle with his playmaking ability inside and outside the pocket.

Pick 9 - Seattle Seahawks (from DEN)

Jermaine Johnson II | Florida State · Edge · Senior (RS)

Seattle desperately needs pass rushers. Johnson chases quarterbacks and holds up his end in the run game -- from both a two-point and three-point stance, which will be valued by new defensive coordinator Clint Hurtt and longtime defensive guru Pete Carroll.

Pick 10 - New York Jets (from SEA)

Garrett Wilson | Ohio State · WR · Junior

Wilson's body control, strong hands and speed would make him a welcome addition to the Jets' receiver room. A (Zach) Wilson-to-Wilson combination could pose plenty of problems for AFC East opponents going forward.

Pick 11 - Washington Commanders

Kyle Hamilton | Notre Dame · S · Junior

I hope that Hamilton's film is not overshadowed by his average 40 time (4.59) and the idea that safety doesn't have "premium positional value." Washington's pairing of Hamilton (roaming the back half with his exceptional football IQ and range) and Kamren Curl (working around the line of scrimmage) will give offenses fits.

Pick 12 - Pittsburgh Steelers (projected trade with Vikings)

Matt Corral | Mississippi · QB · Junior (RS)

The Steelers jump ahead of potential quarterback-takers Houston, Philadelphia and New Orleans to lasso Corral. They send the Vikings the 20th overall pick, as well as 2023 first- and fourth-rounders, to move up eight spots, as GM Kevin Colbert sets the team up for future success before he departs. Most evaluate Corral based on the offense he ran at Ole Miss, but he's not limited to the types of throws he was asked to make in that system. His quick release, mobility and toughness give him a chance to excel in a revamped offense brought to bear by Steelers coordinator Matt Canada in 2022.

Pick 13 - Houston Texans (from CLE)

Charles Cross | Mississippi State · OT · Sophomore (RS)

Cross turns out to be this year's Rashawn Slater/Tristan Wirfs, still on the board in the middle of the first round despite great potential as a pass protector. The Texans love seeing him available here. They slide Cross to right tackle to form a strong pair of bookends with Laremy Tunsil (to whom I would happily compare Cross).

Pick 14 – Baltimore Ravens

Derek Stingley Jr. | LSU · CB · Junior

Stingley's injury history and drop-off from his stellar freshman season keep him on the board, and once again, Baltimore scores a huge first-round value. The Ravens need help at corner in both the short- and long-term due to free-agent losses and Marcus Peters turning 30 in January.

Pick 15 - Philadelphia Eagles (from MIA)

Jordan Davis | Georgia · DT · Senior

Not only does the Eagles' rush defense immediately improve with Davis rotating in with Javon Hargrave (who could be gone after the 2022 season), but the former Bulldog's length and ability to win a gap at 340 pounds will cause issues for quarterbacks. I suspect Davis' presence will also help Fletcher Cox make the most of his remaining time with the club.

Pick 16 - New Orleans Saints (from IND through PHI)

Desmond Ridder | Cincinnati · QB · Senior (RS)

It's hard to see the Saints passing on a quarterback, given the price they paid to add this selection. Ridder's maturity, arm strength and athleticism give him a chance to be a very good starter down the road, and he'll be ready to go in 2023 after veterans Jameis Winston and Andy Dalton pass the torch.

Pick 17 - Los Angeles Chargers

Drake London | USC · WR · Junior

London, whose game is similar to that of current Chargers receiver Mike Williams, said in mid-April he's nearly fully recovered from the ankle injury he sustained last season. But in this scenario, London can take his time, not needing to be The Guy coming out of the gate with Williams and big slot Keenan Allen already in place. Justin Herbert will love having yet another strong option.

Pick 18 - Philadelphia Eagles (from NO)

Jameson Williams | Alabama · WR · Junior

The Eagles take a receiver in the first round for the third straight year, though the speedy Williams may need a redshirt season as he works his way back from a knee injury suffered in the CFP national championship. His immense talent and stable leadership will surely be worth the wait.

Pick 19 - New Orleans Saints (from PHI)

Devin Lloyd | Utah · LB · Senior (RS)

New Orleans' plan to find new future leaders on both sides of the ball in this draft pays off with the selections of Ridder and Lloyd. The former Ute can start at any of the Saints' three linebacker spots because of his ability to rush the passer, cover tight ends and stick his nose into the run game.

Pick 20 - Minnesota Vikings (projected trade with Steelers)

Andrew Booth | Clemson · CB · Junior

Re-signing Patrick Peterson was a wise move, but the Vikings must still add youth to the secondary. Booth's a physical player who has been unable to fully show off his athleticism during the pre-draft process due to nagging injuries. NFL offenses will see it soon enough, however.

Pick 21 - Dallas Cowboys (projected trade with Patriots)

Trevor Penning | Northern Iowa · OT · Senior (RS)

Dallas looks to bolster its line by trading up for the aggressive and athletic future right tackle. Penning's experience on the left side could help if Tyron Smith misses time again in 2022 (he hasn't played a full season since 2015). The Cowboys swap 1s and send fourth- and fifth-round picks (Nos. 129 & 178) to New England to move ahead of Green Bay, Arizona and whoever else is calling Bill Belichick about trading into this spot.

Pick 22 - Green Bay Packers (from LV)

Chris Olave | Ohio State · WR · Senior

Signing Sammy Watkins has no effect on Green Bay's draft plans. Olave is a smooth receiver, gliding through his routes and possessing the speed to cover yardage after the catch. He played four years at Ohio State, which means he's polished enough to be a good target for Aaron Rodgers right out of the chute.

Pick 23 - Arizona Cardinals

Kenyon Green | Texas A&M · OL · Junior

Green's powerful blocking could land him in the middle of the first round, but the Cardinals would love it if he fell to No. 23. Arizona could play him at guard or tackle (he started at both positions in 2021), depending on how the team plans to get its five best linemen on the field.

Pick 24 - New England Patriots (projected trade with Cowboys)

Zion Johnson | Boston College · OL · Senior

The Patriots need help in the interior of their offensive line after trading Shaq Mason to Miami and losing Ted Karras in free agency. Johnson's savvy play and mobility gives him the capability to step into the lineup right away, probably at guard for now and potentially at the pivot when David Andrews retires. The BC product also has experience at left tackle, which could come in handy if Isaiah Wynn misses time due to injury again.

Pick 25 - Buffalo Bills

Trent McDuffie | Washington · CB · Junior

The Bills get another bargain corner in McDuffie, just as they did when snapping up Tre'Davious White at No. 27 in 2017. Even though the former Washington star does not have the typical length and speed most teams prefer at the position, he's too talented to fall out of the first round.

Pick 26 - Kansas City Chiefs (projected trade with Titans)

Daxton Hill | Michigan · S · Junior

Hill was called a safety at Michigan, but he has corner speed and change-of-direction skills. The Chiefs really need bodies on the outside, so Hill could play on the perimeter to start and potentially move around to nickel or safety depending on the formation or how the team uses its later selections. The Chiefs send the 30th overall pick and a third-rounder (No. 94) to the Titans, who return a fifth-round choice (No. 169) to balance the trade equation.

Pick 27 - Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Kaiir Elam | Florida · CB · Junior

The Buccaneers struggled with depth in the secondary last year and face some tough decisions on whether to sign Sean Bunting, Jamel Dean and Mike Edwards as free agents next year. Elam's a physical corner who will take on all comers on the sideline regardless of size or speed.

Pick 28 - Green Bay Packers

Abraham Lucas | Washington State · OT · Senior (RS)

Green Bay has a hole to fill at right tackle, and Lucas' sturdy pass protection and excellent combine performance may be tough to ignore. There are always concerns about Air Raid tackles coming into the league, but I'm a big proponent of scouting the player, not the scheme. Lucas rarely was beat in pass pro and has the bulk to be an effective run blocker with more reps.

Pick 29 - Kansas City Chiefs (from SF through MIA)

George Pickens | Georgia · WR · Junior

Pickens' ACL injury from March 2021 is of no concern to the Chiefs. What sticks in scouts' minds is the toughness he showed returning for Georgia's title run, and the huge downfield catch he hauled in against Alabama. Given his size-speed combination and excellent hands and body control, Pickens would have tracked as a top-15 selection if fully healthy this past season.

Pick 30 - Tennessee Titans (projected trade with Chiefs)

Trey McBride | Colorado State · TE · Senior

Tennessee needs bodies at tight end. McBride would serve as a solid safety valve for Ryan Tannehill and a strong blocker for Derrick Henry from an H-back spot or on the line. That he only scored two touchdowns at Colorado State last year (one on a fake punt) wasn't due to a deficiency in his game, but rather a product of the team's run-based scheme. He'll have no trouble finding the end zone on Sundays.

Pick 31 - Cincinnati Bengals

Perrion Winfrey | Oklahoma · DT · Senior

Assuming Larry Ogunjobi doesn't re-sign with the team, the Bengals should add Winfrey. Strong interior pressure made Cincinnati's defense dangerous during last year's Super Bowl run, and the former Sooner flashed the ability to overwhelm interior offensive linemen with length and a quick first step in college.

Pick 32 - Seattle Seahawks (from LAR through DET) (projected trade with Lions)

Sam Howell | North Carolina · QB · Junior

The Seahawks haven't been a "trade-up team" in the past, but the Giants weren't a "trade-down team" until the right situation arose last year. So even the strongest tendencies can change. Seattle needs more competition at quarterback beyond Drew Lock and Geno Smith. And if the 'Hawks bypass a passer at No. 9 (as they do in this mock), then they give up the 40th overall pick and a fourth-rounder (No. 109) to jump back into Round 1 for the former Tar Heel. Howell's delivery and competitive nature remind me of Russell Wilson.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.COM

Last updated: March 29, 2022 (does not include PHI/NO trade)

Pick 1 - Jacksonville Jaguars

Aidan Hutchinson | Michigan · Edge · Senior

The high-motor pass rusher with freakish athleticism and refined technique is an ideal complement to Josh Allen on the edge.

Pick 2 - Detroit Lions

Travon Walker | Georgia · DL · Junior

Adding a versatile front-line athlete with explosive speed, quickness and power will help the Lions create more pressure on passing downs.

Pick 3 - Houston Texans

Kayvon Thibodeaux | Oregon · Edge · Junior

The ultra-explosive edge defender with outstanding first-step quickness and snap-count anticipation is exactly what coach Lovie Smith needs to add some sizzle to the Texans' pass rush.

Pick 4 - New York Jets

Sauce Gardner | Cincinnati · CB · Junior

The long, rangy cover corner with a polished game will remind Jets fans of Antonio Cromartie in his prime.

Pick 5 - New York Giants

Evan Neal | Alabama · OT · Junior

New general manager Joe Schoen believes in adding prototypes at the marquee positions. Neal is an XXXL edge blocker with outstanding technique and tools.

Pick 6 - Carolina Panthers

Ickey Ekwonu | N.C. State · OT · Junior

If Matt Rhule wants to change the temperament of the Panthers' offensive line, he could opt to add the big-bodied bully from N.C. State, who will pummel defenders at the point of attack.

Pick 7 - New York Giants (from CHI)

Jermaine Johnson II | Florida State · Edge · Senior (RS)

The Giants are at their best when they are able to harass quarterbacks while bringing just four defenders. Johnson is a dynamic pass rusher with the combination of speed, quickness and hand skills to whip opponents on the edge.

Pick 8 - Atlanta Falcons

Garrett Wilson | Ohio State · WR · Junior

Adding a polished route-runner to the lineup to complement Kyle Pitts should help the Falcons' passing game flourish with Marcus Mariota at the helm.

Pick 9 - Seattle Seahawks (from DEN)

Devin Lloyd | Utah · LB · Senior (RS)

After releasing Bobby Wagner, the Seahawks could opt to add a versatile linebacker with impact potential as a pass rusher/playmaker/ballhawk from the second level.

Pick 10 - New York Jets (from SEA)

Kyle Hamilton | Notre Dame · S · Junior

It is hard to find safeties with both center-fielder skills and a linebacker mentality. Hamilton has superstar potential as a versatile chess piece with the capacity to play anywhere, from the deep middle to the box.

Pick 11 - Washington Commanders

Derek Stingley Jr. | LSU · CB · Junior

As a five-star talent with the tools to play as a shutdown corner on the island, Stingley could take the Commanders' defense to the next level if he locks in and performs to his potential.

Pick 12 - Minnesota Vikings

Andrew Booth | Clemson · CB · Junior

The high-IQ technician is a scheme-friendly cover corner with the talent and tools to play at an all-star level from Day 1.

Pick 13 - Houston Texans (from CLE)

Drake London | USC · WR · Junior

Adding a No. 1 receiver is critical to the development of a young quarterback. Whether Houston sticks with Davis Mills, drafts a signal-caller this year or adds one down the road, London is a super-sized pass catcher with the length and leaping ability to expand the strike zone for a passer.

Pick 14 - Baltimore Ravens

Trent McDuffie | Washington · CB · Junior

As a man-heavy team, the Ravens cannot resist adding a talented cover corner with outstanding instincts and skills.

Pick 15 - Philadelphia Eagles (from MIA)

Chris Olave | Ohio State · WR · Senior

Possessing multiple first-round picks, the Eagles could use one to upgrade their receiver corps with a polished route runner who boasts big-play potential.

Pick 16 - Philadelphia Eagles (from IND)

Kyler Gordon | Washington · CB · Junior (RS)

The Eagles need more speed and athleticism in the defensive backfield to handle some of the explosive offenses and receivers around the league. Gordon is a technician with the athleticism, footwork and ball skills to thrive in a man- or zone-based scheme.

Pick 17 - Los Angeles Chargers

Charles Cross | Mississippi State · OT · Sophomore (RS)

This is all about building a fortress around Justin Herbert to help him flourish as a passer. Cross is a natural pass protector with the balance, body control and hand skills to stymie pass rushers on the edges.

Pick 18 - New Orleans Saints

Trevor Penning | Northern Iowa · OT · Senior (RS)

The loss of Terron Armstead, who signed in Miami after manning the left-tackle spot in New Orleans for the past several seasons, creates a void on the edges. Penning is a rock-solid offensive tackle with a nasty disposition and a grown man's game.

Pick 19 - Philadelphia Eagles

Tyler Linderbaum | Iowa · C · Junior (RS)

The question of how much longer four-time All-Pro center Jason Kelce will play could prompt the Eagles to add an insurance policy this season. Linderbaum is a technician with the footwork and hand skills to shine at the pivot as a pro.

Pick 20 - Pittsburgh Steelers

Jahan Dotson | Penn State · WR · Senior

The spectacular catch-and-run specialist is a big-play weapon with polished route-running skills and strong hands.

Pick 21 - New England Patriots

Roger McCreary | Auburn · CB · Senior

Bill Belichick has a knack for identifying and developing blue-chip cornerbacks. McCreary has a solid set of tools that should make him a strong fit in a versatile scheme that blends man and zone coverage.

Pick 22 - Green Bay Packers (from LV)

Bernhard Raimann | Central Michigan · OT · Senior

The Packers are not afraid to invest in their offensive line with top picks, having chosen two (Josh Myers and Elgton Jenkins) in Round 2 within the last three drafts. As a former tight-end turned offensive tackle, Raimann is a nimble athlete with the balance and body control to handle athletic rushers on the edges.

Pick 23 - Arizona Cardinals

Jordan Davis | Georgia · DT · Senior

The monstrous defensive tackle possesses the strength, power and explosiveness to create chaos between the tackles. Davis plays like a bull in a china shop at the point of attack and would give the Cardinals a disruptive defender in the middle of their front line.

Pick 24 - Dallas Cowboys

Boye Mafe | Minnesota · Edge · Senior (RS)

If defensive coordinator Dan Quinn wants an energetic edge rusher to add to the rotation, Mafe might be the pick. The Minnesota standout is a Tasmanian devil off the edges, with a relentless playing style that wears down opponents.

Pick 25 - Buffalo Bills

Zion Johnson | Boston College · OG · Senior

Beefing up the offensive line is a top priority for a Bills team that is close to securing a crown. Johnson is a polished blocker at the point of attack, with the athleticism and movement skills to shine in a zone-based scheme.

Pick 26 - Tennessee Titans

Kenyon Green | Texas A&M · OG · Junior

Green is a bully-ball specialist with the movement skills and road-grading ability to clear the path for Derrick Henry between the tackles.

Pick 27 - Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Devonte Wyatt | Georgia · DT · Senior

Adding a disruptive defender to play alongside Vita Vea at the point of attack could make the Buccaneers' defense downright scary on early downs.

Pick 28 - Green Bay Packers

Christian Watson | North Dakota State · WR

If the Packers break from tradition and add a pass-catcher in Round 1 for the first time since 2002, Watson could be the pick as a long, rangy player with speed and sticky hands.

Pick 29 - Kansas City Chiefs (from SF through MIA)

Skyy Moore | Western Michigan · WR · Junior

There is not a single receiver out there who can replace all of traded-way veteran Tyreek Hill's production, but Moore is a dynamic weapon with the explosiveness and versatility to pop in an Andy Reid offense.

Pick 30 - Kansas City Chiefs

Dax Hill | Michigan · S · Junior

Hill is a prototypical nickel defender with the kind of hit, run and cover skills that will make him a hot commodity for a team that loves to attack with pressure.

Pick 31 - Cincinnati Bengals

Logan Hall | Houston · DE · Senior

The Bengals' workmanlike defensive front could use another interior disruptor with pass-rush skills. Hall's energy and effort make him an intriguing option for a defense that wears opponents out with its physicality and relentlessness.

Pick 32 - Detroit Lions (from LAR)

Arnold Ebiketie | Penn State · Edge · Senior (RS)

The Lions need more athletic defenders on the field to have a chance to close the gap on their rivals. Ebiketie flashes impressive first-step quickness and closing speed as a bend-and-burst rusher off the edge.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

VINNIE IYER – SPORTING NEWS

Last updated: April 25, 2022

1. Jacksonville Jaguars (3-14)

Aidan Hutchinson, EDGE, Michigan (6-6, 260 pounds)

The Jaguars have been locked into taking the best defensive player available for a while and that won't change as they go after the cornerstone for their new-look defense under coordinator Mike Caldwell, formerly of the Buccaneers. They've been setting up the relentless, explosive and sometimes dominant Hutchinson being the anchor

2. Detroit Lions (3-13-1)

Kyle Hamilton, S, Notre Dame (6-4, 220 pounds)

The Lions also feel like they're going for defensive impact and the decision for Brad Holmes, Dan Campbell and Aaron Glenn will come down to Hamilton, edge rusher Kayvon Thibodeaux or versatile 3-4 hybrid playmaker Travon Walker. Hamilton is the safest, can't-miss option here because he will continue to make a ton of plays on the back end vs. the pass and also clean up like an extra linebacker vs. the run.

3. Houston Texans (4-13)

Evan Neal, OT, Alabama (6-7, 337 pounds)

The Texans are holding on to Laremy Tunsil for left tackle but now they can look at Neal to dominate the right side and provide powerful bookends for Davis Mills or whoever is their starting quarterback in 2022. They have a big void at the other tackle and Neal can flip a massive weakness into a big strength.

4. New York Jets (4-13)

Kayvon Thibodeaux, EDGE, Oregon (6-4, 254 pounds)

The Jets should be thrilled if Thibodeaux slips here to become the explosive cornerstone pass-rusher for coach Robert Saleh, which will remind him of having Nick Bosa powering his defense in San Francisco. This makes great sense as the follow-up high first-rounder to quarterback Zach Wilson.

5. New York Giants (4-13)

Ickey Ekwonu, OT/G, NC State (6-4, 310 pounds)

The Giants, as expected, removed the hefty contract of right tackle Nate Solder from the books and here's their direct replacement for him opposite Andrew Thomas New GM Joe Schoen needs to upgrade the offensive line well for new coach Brian Daboll and started with adding center Jon Feliciano and right guard Matt Glowinski in free agency. Ekwonu can easily start over fellow newcomer Matt Gono, who makes sense as a strong swing backup.

6. Carolina Panthers (5-12)

Charles Cross, OT, Mississippi State (6-5, 307 pounds)

The Panthers will not be taking a quarterback early while settling on starting Sam Darnold again and instead should address their biggest offensive weakness overall. Cross is a similar strength-power prospect to Ekwonu with his own mean and nasty blocking style. He has untapped upside with his footwork and agility.

7. New York Giants (from Bears)

Derek Stingley Jr., CB, LSU (6-1, 195 pounds)

The Giants need a young alpha playmaker on the back end of their defense and Schoen has given serious consideration to move the hefty contract of James Bradberry before or during the draft. Stingley makes a lot of sense in that regard, edging out a pass rusher early given the depth at that later position.

8. Atlanta Falcons (7-10)

Travon Walker, DE/DT, Georgia (6-5, 272 pounds)

The Falcons addressed cornerback in free agency with Casey Hayward Jr to complement rising star A.J. Terrell. They should be thrilled to stay in the state to land Walker, an ideal explosive disruptor in front of Dean Pees' pressure 3-4 scheme.

9. Seattle Seahawks (from Broncos)

Malik Willis, QB, Liberty (6-0, 219 pounds)

Willis proved he can be a top-10 upside pick for a QB needy team, which the Seahawks are after the blockbuster Russell Wilson trade that yielded this pick in return. Willis can develop into their new version of Wilson with strong arm, fine athleticism and overall toughness.

10. New York Jets (from Seahawks)

Sauce Gardner, CB, Cincinnati (6-2, 190 pounds)

Saleh, should Thibodeaux land in New York to be his next Bosa, can also get his version of Richard Sherman on the field in this nasty, fearless and now extremely speedy cover man to complement free-agent addition D.J. Reed.

11. Washington Commanders (7-10)

Chris Olave, WR, Ohio State (6-1, 187 pounds)

The Commanders need to give Carson Wentz and Terry McLaurin some help at wideout and getting a true speedy No. 1 outside would be a great decision for Scott Turner's offense. Olave has a little more all-around appeal for his explosiveness than former teammates Garrett Wilson and Jameson Williams.

12. Minnesota Vikings (8-9)

Andrew Booth Jr. CB, Clemson (6-0, 194 pounds)

The Vikings brought back fading Patrick Peterson because of hurting depth but they still need to address corner to get the ideal complement to well-rounded Cameron Dantzler. Booth is aggressive in coverage and should maintain the big playmaking in the NFL.

13. Houston Texans (from Browns)

Jermaine Johnson II, EDGE, Florida State (6-5, 254 pounds)

The Texans got a strong season from Jonathan Greenard but are pretty weak getting to the quarterback from the outside otherwise. Johnson has been rising fast because of some freakish qualities and has the potential to give them their new J.J. Watt playing end in Lovie Smith's 4-3.

14. Baltimore Ravens (8-9)

Tyler Linderbaum, C, Iowa (6-2, 296 pounds)

The Ravens are looking for an interior stud and should focus on center with Kevin Zeitler serving well as right guard and Bradley Bozeman gone in free agency. Linderbaum, who has been working with former Iowa star turned Ravens legend Marshal Yanda, would be ideal inside.

15. Philadelphia Eagles (from Dolphins)

Kenny Pickett, QB Pittsburgh (6-3, 217 pounds)

The Eagles have been showing increasing affinity for Pickett's more traditional pocket passing skill set (along with his athleticism) as an upgrade from Jalen Hurts with arm, accuracy and efficiency more in mind. Pickett working with Wilson, Smith and tight end Dallas Goedert behind a still sturdy line is a bold idea, but it's not crazy at all.

16. New Orleans Saints (from Colts through Eagles)

Garrett Wilson, WR, Ohio State (5-11, 183 pounds)

The Saints should be in the market for plenty of wide receiver depth as there's not much behind Michael Thomas beyond Marquez Callaway, given Tre'Quan Smith leads the rest of the bunch. Now that New Orleans has two first-rounders this year after a trade with Philadelphia, it can also address the offensive line concern here or three spots later at No. 19.

17. Los Angeles Chargers (9-8)

Jordan Davis, DT, Georgia (6-6, 340 pounds)

The Chargers need to upgrade their run defense big time. Their entire front three struggled in that capacity. Coach Brandon Staley was used to having Aaron Donald as his 3-4 linchpin with the other Los Angeles team. Davis is a massive player who disrupts plays with great quickness for his size.

18. Philadelphia Eagles (from Saints)

Nakobe Dean, LB, Georgia (5-11, 229 pounds)

The Eagles also need to reinforce their defense as part of their three first-rounder, Dean would be more of an immediate-impact choice than going for depth at either end or tackle. Dean was the active playmaking leader of the Bulldogs' national championship defense and can fit anywhere with T.J. Edwards given free-agent splurge Haason Reddick is more of an edge rusher and Kyzir White is just a place-holder.

19. New Orleans Saints (from Eagles)

Trevor Penning, OT, Northern Iowa (6-7, 325 pounds)

The Saints look like they're fine bridging at quarterback for another season with the combination of Jameis Winston and Andy Dalton after losing out on Deshaun Watson but they do need to replace left tackle Terron Armstead opposite Ryan Ramczyk. Penning has similar smaller-school big body traits to Armstead with his blend of power and athleticism.

20. Pittsburgh Steelers (9-7-1)

Desmond Ridder, QB, Cincinnati (6-3, 211 pounds)

The Steelers cannot mess around with Mason Rudolph or limited bridge options such as Mitchell Trubisky. They could think offensive line here, but Ridder's experience, leadership, strong arm and sometimes dazzling athleticism provides the ideal makeup for Mike Tomlin's next playmaking leader to replace Ben Roethlisberger.

21. New England Patriots (10-7)

Jameson Williams, WR, Alabama (6-1, 179 pounds)

The Patriots, should Wilson and Olave be gone, shouldn't hesitate to pair Williams with another Alabama product in Mac Jones, who didn't get to play with him in college. Williams is a big playmaker with the technical route-running skills and hands the Patriots like.

22. Green Bay Packers (from Raiders)

Drake London, WR, USC (6-4, 219 pounds)

The Packers should feel confident they can land a strong wide receiver of choice to replace Davante Adams with the pick acquired from trading him. London may not last this long, but his recent rise ensures that Green Bay will get great value here, and should get either Wilson or Williams if not him. London has the size, speed, hands and quickness to be Aaron Rodgers' trusty new outside No. 1.

23. Arizona Cardinals (11-6)

Devonte Wyatt, DT/DE, Georgia (6-3, 304 pounds)

With one fewer letter in his last name, J.J. Watt just turned 33 and fellow 3-4 end Zach Allen has been a disappointment in the final year of his rookie contract. Wyatt's versatile explosiveness would be ideal to be disruptive in Vance Joseph's front.

24. Dallas Cowboys (12-5)

Kenyon Green, G, Texas A&M (6-4, 323 pounds)

The Cowboys needed to let Connor Williams leave in free agency and Green would be the ideal strong and athleticism replacement for their scheme to support Tyler Biadasz and Zack Martin inside.

25. Buffalo Bills (11-6)

Trent McDuffie, CB, Washington (5-10, 193 pounds)

The Bills lost good No. 2 corner Levi Wallace in free agency and No. 1 Tre'Davious White will be coming off a torn ACL for his Age 27 season. With limited weaknesses as Super Bowl contenders, they should look for a direct replacement for Wallace outside. McDuffie can offer great explosiveness and quickness for Sean McDermott and Leslie Frazier.

26. Tennessee Titans (12-5)

David Ojabo, EDGE, Michigan (6-4, 250 pounds)

The Titans had great success stashing defensive lineman Jeffery Simmons for their 3-4 under GM Jon Robinson and despite Ojabo coming off a recent torn Achilles', they can add him to provide more relentless energy in getting to the quarterback behind Harold Landry.

27. Tampa Bay Buccaneers (13-4)

George Karlaftis, EDGE, Purdue (6-4, 256 pounds)

The Buccaneers haven't re-signed one-time athletic freak Jason Pierre-Paul and both Anthony Nelson and Joe Tryon-Shoyinka are better contributors as situational players. They should welcome the development of landing this different kind of "Greek freak" to put opposite Shaquil Barrett for promoted defensive-minded coach Todd Bowles.

28. Green Bay Packers (13-4)

Jahan Dotson, WR, Penn State (5-10, 178 pounds)

The Packers should think about doubling up on wide receiver in the first round. London looks the part of an outside No. 1, while Dotson can be the speedy vertical threat for Rodgers to replace free-agent departure Marquez Valdes-Scantling.

29. Kansas City Chiefs (from 49ers through Dolphins)

Treylon Burks, WR, Arkansas (6-2, 225 pounds)

The Chiefs added JuJu Smith-Schuster and Valdes-Scantling after trading Tyreek Hill to the Dolphins but they also lost Byron Pringle and Demarcus Robinson in free agency and the jury's out on Mecole Hardman beyond return duties. They might as well replenish the cupboard with someone who profiles better as the outside No. 1 given his size and speed with Smith-Schuster working as the big slot and MVS providing the complementary deep threat.

30. Kansas City Chiefs (12-5)

Boye Mafe, EDGE, Minnesota (6-3, 261 pounds)

Mafe has been an astronomical riser because of recent showcases of his explosiveness as a pass rusher with top-flight athleticism. With Melvin Ingram and tackles Jarran Reed left in free agency, the Chiefs are set to need more support for Chris Jones and Frank Clark.

31. Cincinnati Bengals (10-7)

Trey McBride, TE, Colorado State (6-4, 260 pounds)

The Bengals lost reliable C.J. Uzomah in free agency and did sign former Falcon Hayden Hurst, but they are still considering adding another receiving weapon to help Joe Burrow find another athletic mismatch to complement his top wideouts.

32. Detroit Lions (from Rams)

Devin Lloyd, LB, Utah (6-3, 237 pounds)

The Lions, after getting Hamilton to upgrade safety in their back seven, can get another dynamic playmaker. Lloyd can line up well in the middle or the strong side and they should be thrilled if Lloyd lasts this long because of the position he plays. Lloyd is a good run defender but his impact calling card comes in the passing game as both a blitzer and cover man.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

CONOR ORR – SI.COM

Last updated: April 19, 2022

1. Jacksonville Jaguars

Evan Neal, OT, Alabama

Neal blows me away on tape. Our Albert Breer recently noted Aiden Hutchinson is the likely top pick due in part to a wariness in perception from GM Trent Baalke. After the Urban Meyer storm left town, there is certainly pressure on both owner Shad Khan and Baalke to do normal football things. Taking the player who has become somewhat of a consensus No. 1 would classify. It would be the opposite of, say, kicking one of your players.

That said, I think Neal would benefit the Jaguars in the longer run. Doug Pederson's quarterbacks earn a longer leash each year in his system. By the end of the Carson Wentz era in Philadelphia, there was so much long-drop hero ball. That kind of offense requires a tackle who can sink deep into the pocket, maintain a balanced foundation against talented edge players and fend off attackers for longer periods of time. Neal can do that better than anyone else in the draft.

I don't particularly care that the Jaguars have a left tackle on the franchise tag. Move him around. I've been told Cam Robinson can play guard. Move Neal around for a year and cross-train him. Be a team that sets your offensive line up for success. Baalke himself told me at the combine this year that the edge class provides value into the third round. Pick up your secondary pass rusher there. Take care of Trevor Lawrence here.

Also, to the point of Breer's sources on Baalke, what would be bad about the perception of protecting Lawrence? I think a large segment of the Jaguars' fan base would breathe a sigh of relief knowing their generational prospect is well taken care of.

2. Detroit Lions

Aidan Hutchinson, edge, Michigan

Pair the guy with the Middle Ages ground warfare face paint and Dan Campbell together and you really have something, no? Hutchinson's film was a blast to scroll through, though the Georgia game gave me some momentary pause. Is it fair to criticize a potential No. 1 pick for playing in a bowl game? Probably not. Is it fair to criticize Hutchinson when, defensively, he is going to be keyed on every down? Probably not. That said, there were moments when he was blocked out of running plays by non-offensive linemen. He had his best rushes when switched to the nondominant tackle. This would have been my internal argument for Neal vs. Hutchinson, anyway.

That said, Hutchinson was a Tarzan-like character for most of his Michigan career. He is athletic, furiously competitive and fluid in the trenches. The Lions desperately need this kind of homegrown superstar, raised in Dearborn, to come and provide the franchise with a legitimate building block of the future.

3. Houston Texans

Ikem Ekwonu, OT, North Carolina State

I do enjoy the theory that the Texans would go with a cornerback here in order to help Lovie Smith, when the Texans so poorly mistreated their last coach and are so clearly scheming toward some future time we can't yet wrap our heads around. If Houston pivots to something that helps bolster Smith's favored Tampa 2 defense, consider me shocked and blown away. Ekwonu would provide some stability for the Texans and a run-blocking presence. Eventually, he'd also provide a suitable long-term replacement for Laremy Tunsil.

4. New York Jets

Kayvon Thibodeaux, edge, Oregon

Robert Saleh badly wanted another edge player to pair with Carl Lawson in the first round of last year's draft, but the Jets found a perfect system player in Alijah Vera-Tucker for whom they needed to move up. The return of Lawson gives the Jets some juice at the edge position, and the arrival of an athlete like Thibodeaux would provide the bookends Saleh needs to run a more representative version of his defense. The Jets prioritize numbers in coverage and not necessarily a reliance on a star player, like an Ahmad Gardner, here. Thibodeaux's personality has been mangled into a sloppy predraft narrative by the NFL industrial complex looking for another character in their reality show. He'll be fine alongside a considerate mind like Saleh. Also, having a little bit of an edge will serve him well in Florham Park.

5. New York Giants

Ahmad Gardner, CB, Cincinnati

New Giants defensive coordinator Don Martindale could very well change his stripes in East Rutherford and blitz less, though even in a more reserved 2022 the Ravens were sending extra rushers on almost a third of their defensive snaps. Gardner would take James Bradberry's spot and pair with Adoree' Jackson for a cornerback tandem that is good enough to stay afloat in the NFC East right away. The Giants certainly have some more work to do, but I was always impressed by what Brian Daboll did with Josh Allen while the Bills' offensive line was a work in progress. Maybe they'll press a top need here and hope for the best two picks later. Or maybe (see below) …

6. Carolina Panthers

Charles Cross, OT, Mississippi State

I really can't imagine, as smart and as successful a person as owner David Tepper is, that he'd allow his franchise to take a blind and consequential swing at the QB position here at No. 6. Maybe the Panthers are still in on Baker Mayfield. Maybe there is something else in the works. That said, the current structure of this franchise is a house of cards, and the true reset will come a year from now. Having to possibly inherit a new coach who will need to develop, say, Malik Willis, is a really difficult business proposition.

Projected trade: The Giants send pick No. 7 to the Saints. The Saints send pick No. 16, No. 19, No. 49 (a second-round pick) and a second-round pick in 2023 to the Giants.

7. New Orleans Saints (via Giants via Bears)

Matt Corral, QB, Ole Miss

We're assuming, perhaps incorrectly, that the Saints needed that trade with the Eagles to acquire first-round ammunition for a quarterback. We're assuming, perhaps incorrectly, that longtime Saints offensive coordinator Pete Carmichael Jr. would lean toward the quickest release in the draft. Corral is not Drew Brees, but he gets rid of the ball and will pair nicely with the team's fleet of playmakers. Here, the Giants would forgo the chance to draft Kyle Hamilton and instead add to their future trade stockpile. (Justin Fields, anyone?) In reality, the Giants might want to hang on to this pick, though having additional draft ammo they may use to someday replace Daniel Jones is intriguing.

8. Atlanta Falcons

Malik Willis, QB, Liberty

After stumbling all over themselves during the Deshaun Watson blind dating show, the Falcons must save face and come out of this draft with a better long-term quarterback option than Marcus Mariota. That signing, after the Matt Ryan trade, always had the feel of a bridge maneuver. Willis could be a year away from seeing the field anyway, but possesses high-end potential in the right offense. Remove him from the offensive situation at Liberty, and we could see him grow quickly.

9. Seattle Seahawks (via Broncos)

Travon Walker, DE, Georgia

A player in consideration for the No. 1 pick, Walker would be a tremendous coup for the Seahawks at No. 9, considering their wealth of defensive needs. His ability to cover as well as rush would give Pete Carroll some fresh blood in a defense that has been picked over for years. One concern? According to Pro Football Focus, almost 50% of Walker's pressures came in unblocked scenarios or in "clean up" duty. I remember another player—Trey Hendrickson—who had a similar percentage leaving New Orleans for the Bengals, and everything worked out O.K.

10. New York Jets (via Seahawks)

Garrett Wilson, WR, Ohio State

It's difficult to imagine a GM needing a wide receiver so badly that he would get deep into the Tyreek Hill sweepstakes but then pass on the chance to take his favorite wide receiver in the draft. I don't know who, exactly, that is, but Wilson can elevate quarterback Zach Wilson with his presence and yards after the catch ability. The Jets have realized Zach Wilson is going to be a work in progress. Nothing makes a quarterback better than a receiver who catches everything and turns five-yard completions into 35-yard completions.

11. Washington Commanders

Kenny Pickett, QB, Pitt

The Commanders have plenty of needs here, but it's fair to wonder whether they'll ever be picking high enough, or have the administrative flexibility to acquire the ammunition for, a true No. 1 quarterback who could transform the franchise. Pickett could hang behind Carson Wentz and take over if an emergency arose. In 2023, he could then lead a team that hopefully has not alienated the best homegrown wide receiver it's had in years. Pickett may be victim to the His Hands are Too Small to Play in the Northeast trope, but the Commanders have to stop kicking the can down the road at QB.

12. Minnesota Vikings

Kyle Hamilton, S, Notre Dame

Some franchises luck into years of stellar QB play. Some franchises luck into generational Notre Dame safety prospects. While I could see a real analytically minded argument against taking Hamilton here, especially for the well-versed Kwesi Adofo-Mensah, I would point to the Bills and their incredible safety tandem as an indication of how a team can manipulate opposing offenses without necessarily having traditional shutdown corners. Hamilton is one of the best players in this draft … period.

13. Houston Texans (via Browns)

Jordan Davis, DT, Georgia

Just a terrifying presence, Davis may be one of the best overall players in the draft. As we said before, the Texans can truly follow a best-player-available approach, and Davis is most certainly that in this scenario. He can be a foundational player for Houston, getting the Texans immediately tougher against the run in a division with Derrick Henry, Jonathan Taylor and Travis Etienne (who we know nothing about as a professional, but has a great deal of talent).

14. Baltimore Ravens

Jermaine Johnson II, edge, Florida State

Drafting Johnson would give the Ravens one of the best young edge tandems in the league—an athletic set of players who could torture Joe Burrow and get upfield quickly to keep Deshaun Watson in the pocket. Obviously, a cornerback makes some sense here for Baltimore, but if you think long-term about the way the AFC North is shaping up, the value will be in more players to swarm the passer.

15. Philadelphia Eagles (via Dolphins)

Derek Stingley Jr., DB, LSU

If the talent is clearly there, I don't think I'd be that scared of taking Stingley in the NFL, especially if you have a coordinator like Jonathan Gannon. Gannon, who interviewed for the Texans' head-coaching job last year and will likely have some options if the Eagles get back into the playoffs in 2022, would have a field day with a press cornerback who has thrived with little to no safety help. Last year, we heard before the draft that the Eagles had their sights set on both of the Alabama wideouts, and if both were gone before their pick, they would have dropped to take a corner. That need still exists. Stingley is a game-changer.

Projected trade: The Saints send pick No. 16, No. 19, No. 49 (a second-round pick) and a second-round pick in 2023 to the Giants. The Giants send pick No. 7 to the Saints.

16. New York Giants (via Saints via Colts via Eagles)

George Karlaftis, DE, Purdue

The Giants have some room to play with here and a defensive line that needs some serious attention. While I might go with an interior player here, Joe Schoen and Brian Daboll come from a Buffalo team that has brilliantly stockpiled edge talent in the last two years, preparing for a series of deep playoff runs against elite quarterback play. Karlaftis was double teamed frequently at Purdue, which led to some misconceptions about his speed. We had a chance to view part of a private workout with Karlaftis and came away impressed. The Giants can bookend their defensive line and get tougher in a hurry.

17. Los Angeles Chargers

Trevor Penning, OT, Northern Illinois

There is nothing more important for the Chargers than Justin Herbert, who has nearly reached transcendent superstardom. Los Angeles is desperately thin at tackle, however, and Penning is a great example of another solid talent falling into the team's lap. While I liked the idea of a run-stuffing tackle here or a thick off-ball linebacker—two players Brandon Staley could have obviously used in crunch time last year—Penning is going to fill an immediate need, leaving the Chargers to shop run defense and wide receiver in the latter rounds.

18. Philadelphia Eagles (via Saints)

Jameson Williams, WR, Alabama

Sure, the Eagles are taking another first-round wide receiver. But this is the luxury you have with a relatively intact offensive line and a defense that just scored a major player of need with their earlier first-round pick. Williams would give the Eagles a daunting offense that will absolutely overpower any slate of cornerbacks in the division. Williams, the former teammate of DeVonta Smith, should be ready to go by the start of the season. Howie Roseman & Co. are thinking long-term, anyway.

Projected trade: The Saints send pick No. 16, No. 19, No. 49 (a second-round pick) and a second-round pick in 2023 to the Giants. The Giants send pick No. 7 to the Saints.

19. New York Giants (via Saints via Eagles)

Nakobe Dean, LB, Georgia

I covered the Giants for a few seasons as a day-to-day beat reporter, so I understand I'm going to be littered with compostable material when I mock them an inside linebacker. The Giants, you say, just don't draft inside linebackers in the first round. My retort? The Giants have an independent eye on their scouting process for the first time since the late 1970s. Off-ball linebackers have never been more important. The Giants' defense seems, right now, to be far away from a Wink Martindale blueprint. Dean would be a critical piece toward the amoebic looks that made the Ravens' so hard to contend with. And he's not just a product of a generationally great defensive line at Georgia. There's a good deal of independent work happening there, and it's impressive.

20. Pittsburgh Steelers

Devonte Wyatt, DL, Georgia

I don't love the Steelers' inside linebacker situation, but it's not a helpless one. I also don't love their cornerback situation and could see them trying to upgrade there. However, Wyatt is so disruptive and I think he'd fix a lot of problems. Pittsburgh is not going to absurdly mortgage its future for a QB here. The AFC North is a marathon right now, and moving too quickly will end up knocking the Steelers out of the race for years to come. I think they could endure a down year like the Patriots did in 2020 while they retool and acquire their long-term option under center. If that's the case, be smart: Take the guy who is going to tear holes in offensive lines for years to come.

21. New England Patriots

Devin Lloyd, LB, Utah

This is a difficult one. I don't like having Lloyd on the board for this long. I don't necessarily like the Patriots taking him, but there isn't a coach who could better serve the Utah star than Bill Belichick. Lloyd would help the Patriots create all kinds of legal defensive confusion. He can shoot upfield and take down backs, which is essential in a division with two teams regularly running outside zone. He can also take away intermediate targets, which seriously hampers the progression for two younger quarterbacks in the division.

22. Green Bay Packers (via Raiders)

Treylon Burks, WR, Arkansas

I was told to watch for the edge position here, but Treylon Burks being available changes everything (in this world that I, alone, have created). The Burks–Deebo Samuel comparison checks out on film, and the Packers' offensive coaches are uniquely informed in the nuances of Kyle Shanahan's system and how they might be able to set Burks up for yards after the catch situations. In losing Davante Adams, the Packers also lost the ability to create efficient, short-yardage gains in the passing game with mechanical regularity. Perhaps Burks is the answer there, while also alleviating some of the pressure on Green Bay's running game.

23. Arizona Cardinals

Chris Olave, WR, Ohio State

Unless the Cardinals plan to drastically reposition their offense, they will need to upgrade their talent set at wide receiver. The Cardinals cannot win unless they overwhelm with their weapons, and they are currently sporting A.J. Green as their No. 2 wideout. At the combine this year, Kliff Kingsbury admitted he did not do enough to alter the Cardinals' offense after DeAndre Hopkins went down. Olave would give them a chance to add depth and some multilayered versatility for Kyler Murray.

24. Dallas Cowboys

Kenyon Green, OL, Texas A&M

Maybe we're stuck in dated thinking, but the best of what the Cowboys have had to offer as a football team in recent years came with a blue-chip offensive line. The league may be catching up to the Patriots' and Packers' long-standing love of cross-trained offensive linemen with experience at various position groups and Green would give the Cowboys a potential talent who can work at different spots and be a salve for the injured. Dak Prescott gets rid of the ball incredibly fast, so cornerback may also be an option here if Dallas's in-house candidates look intriguing.

25. Buffalo Bills

Trent McDuffie, DB, Washington

When you have almost anything a team could want, you add depth in the secondary. The Bills are so close to crossing that Super Bowl threshold and, while the loss of Brian Daboll hurts, they could ease some of the burden by putting Sean McDermott's defense on autopilot. McDuffie would change an already versatile, presnap-decision-robbing secondary into an absolute Rubik's cube for a quarterback to try to solve before each snap. He probably won't last this long, but some kind of versatile defensive playmaker with tons of upside will land here, and I'd be curious to see if the Bills value bolstering their defense or expanding their playmaker base on offense.

26. Tennessee Titans

Desmond Ridder, QB, Cincinnati

Mike Vrabel is going to have the kind of insight into the Bearcats' program that Belichick does into Alabama. And while Cincinnati may not yield the same kind of talent font, Ridder is an incredibly talented passer who gives the Titans a hand-the-baton option should Ryan Tannehill falter. Watching Ridder highlights is a blast because he is so smooth. Count the designed number of drop steps and, just as his foot hits the ground, a swooping throw with solid velocity leaves his arm. It's going to be difficult to disrupt him given how fluid a player he is. Tennessee might want to wait, but it is low on draft capital and will want the rights to Ridder's fifth-year option. Our resident Ohio State and Ohio State–program-adjacent expert Albert Breer seems to concur.

Projected trade: The Buccaneers send pick No. 27 to the Lions. The Lions send picks No. 32, No. 66 (a third-rounder), No. 177 (a fifth-round comp pick) and No. 235 (the Browns' seventh-round pick) to the Buccaneers.

27. Detroit Lions (via the Buccaneers)

Drake London, WR, USC

The Lions, who own pick No. 32, move up ever so slightly to park ahead of the Chiefs and Packers, two teams that also need wide receiver help. While I couldn't find a place for London anywhere else in the draft, he makes a good deal of sense in Detroit, where his physical skills can help in tight coverage. The Lions can pair him with D.J. Chark, Josh Reynolds and Amon-Ra St. Brown for an intriguing combination of size that could help Jared Goff in contested situations and in the red zone. London caught end zone fades at USC with almost no vision of the ball save for the moment it hit (one) of his hands. If Detroit brings in its eventual successor at QB in 2023, he'll be happy the Lions moved up a few picks in '22.

28. Green Bay Packers

Boye Mafe, edge, Minnesota

Here comes the edge rusher for the Packers. Mafe has the speed to provide Green Bay with an additional presence off the edge. The Packers wanted a player like this and have the requisite time and (somewhat) depth to break Mafe in at the right speed. There is still plenty of draft capital to fill out the pass-catching depth chart for Aaron Rodgers.

29. Kansas City Chiefs (via 49ers)

Jahan Dotson, WR, Penn State

Don't call Dotson a Tyreek Hill replacement, because there is never going to be the perfect comp. That said, the Chiefs need speedy playmakers in order for their offense to function and punish defenses with players who can create in short yardage situations. Dotson has some unique tweaks to classic double-move routes that will be freshly annoying for NFL defensive backs trying to slow him down.

30. Kansas City Chiefs

Andrew Booth, DB, Clemson

The best part about Booth may be that so many of his highlights involve him whacking someone or making some kind of unfathomable contested tackle. This will bode well for a corner who will be taking on some rugged offenses in the AFC West, as well as some really good quarterbacks who feast on any kind of hesitancy or discomfort. What is the adult term for swagger? Because Booth provides this as a defensive back immediately—and the Chiefs have no choice but to upgrade there.

31. Cincinnati Bengals

Tyler Linderbaum, C, Iowa

I am admittedly taking this pick from the folks at PFF because I love it so much, and it gives me a chance to slot my favorite player in the draft into the first round. Linderbaum is a superb talent who deserves to be mentioned among the best prospects in the draft. He's such a fun watch on tape. The Bengals just signed a center (Ted Karras), but one who could play guard. Linderbaum could be Joe Burrow's eyes up front for the next decade. Duke Tobin, the team's director of personnel, would never have to answer another question about the offensive line again.

Projected trade: The Lions send picks No. 32, No. 66 (a third-rounder), No. 177 (a fifth-round comp pick) and No. 235 (the Browns' seventh-round pick) to the Buccaneers. The Buccaneers send pick No. 27 to the Lions.

32. Tampa Bay Buccaneers (via Lions via Rams)

Travis Jones, DT, Connecticut

Todd Bowles is in charge now, which means he gets to pound the table for another space-eating defensive tackle who can clear the deck for his talented off-ball linebackers. The most intriguing defenses Bowles has had possessed a mix of interior pocket-pushing power and speed off the edges, which is no secret. Bowles loves to stuff gaps and prey on the traditional soft spots of offensive lines. Jones is large, has a bit of a pass rushing arsenal and hung tough against better opponents late in decided games. He was also, as a Huskie, getting to the QB while double teamed against Clemson. So … not bad.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

NATE DAVIS – USA TODAY

Last updated: April 15, 2022

1. Detroit Lions (projected trade with Jaguars)

DE Aidan Hutchinson, Michigan

The apparent lack of elite quarterback prospects makes this year's No. 1 overall pick less appealing than in most years. Yet the Jags might find a prospective buyer in Detroit, which currently sits in the No. 2 spot. Even if Hutchinson is the best player available, there's not much of a delta between him and the next guy. However the Plymouth, Michigan, native and University of Michigan blueblood could have unique value to a Lions organization that lacks a face of the franchise. Engaging off the field, relentless between the lines and highly productive, the Heisman Trophy finalist set a Wolverines record with 14 sacks in 2021. The 6-7, 260-pounder would be the perfect addition to a 29th-ranked defense that recently let go of oft-injured DE Trey Flowers. Detroit could feasibly flip positions with Jacksonville by also giving up its two third-round picks.

2. Jacksonville Jaguars (projected trade with Lions)

DE Travon Walker, Georgia

This year's combine superstar (4.51 40 time, 35½-inch vertical leap), the 6-5, 272-pounder could be the crown jewel of a Bulldogs defense teeming with NFL talent. And unlike Hutchinson, Walker is more familiar with lining up inside – potentially valuable on passing downs when the Jags are likely to deploy edge rushers Josh Allen, Arden Key and K'Lavon Chaisson. Walker wasn't especially productive on the stat sheet for Georgia (13 tackles for loss, 9½ sacks in three seasons), but he'll surely benefit from more snaps – most likely to come at end – in the pros. And his ability to defend the run would be especially alluring in a division featuring Titans RB Derrick Henry and Colts RB Jonathan Taylor.

3. Houston Texans

OT Ikem 'Ickey' Ekwonu, North Carolina State

Good luck finding an offensive line prospect this year with more upside. A devastating run blocker, he could start out at guard or right tackle – or settle in on QB Davis Mills' blind side if the Texans decide to move veteran LT Laremy Tunsil as part of their ongoing rebuild. The 6-4, 310-pound Ekwonu ran a sub-5-second 40-yard dash at the combine, one indicator of his elite athleticism.

4. New York Jets

CB Ahmad 'Sauce' Gardner, Cincinnati

A franchise that's been looking for Darrelle Revis' successor for the past half-decade would benefit greatly from the 6-3, 190-pounder Gardner, who never surrendered a TD pass for the Bearcats. The consensus All-American allowed only 20 receptions in 2021, picked off three passes and – evidence of his all-around game – posted 40 tackles and three sacks. He's not going to sustain that kind of shutdown rep in a division now featuring WRs Tyreek Hill and Stefon Diggs, but he'd certainly upgrade the league's worst defense, both in terms of points and yards allowed in 2021.

5. Pittsburgh Steelers (projected trade with Giants)

QB Malik Willis, Liberty

The six-time Super Bowl champs need a long-term replacement for retired QB Ben Roethlisberger and will eventually have to bite the bullet and ascend for one given Mike Tomlin's inability to finish below .500 will never organically get Pittsburgh in position to draft one. Elevating 15 spots is a big jump, but Tomlin and outgoing GM Kevin Colbert could probably pull it off by sending the Giants next year's first-rounder in addition to No. 20. The Steel City could also be an ideal landing spot for Willis, the presence of newly acquired veteran Mitchell Trubisky giving the Auburn transfer time to adapt from Liberty to the NFL. But he's the kind of dual threat passer Tomlin covets, and his 74 combined TDs (pass/rush) are the most in the Football Bowl Subdivision over the past two seasons. With a little seasoning, his powerful arm and legs could leverage downfield threats Diontae Johnson and Chase Claypool more than Big Ben could at the end while freeing room for second-year RB Najee Harris – his 6-1, 232-pound frame resembles Willis' – to operate.

6. Carolina Panthers

QB Kenny Pickett, Pittsburgh

Questionable a strategy as it might be for GM Scott Fitterer, embattled coach Matt Rhule and this organization generally, signs seem to be pointing to a quarterback. Rhule was a regular on the QB pro day circuit and – barring a trade down – probably has to get Sam Darnold's (eventual?) replacement here given the Panthers will have to wait 131 selections until their next pick near the end of Round 4. Pickett might be the most NFL-ready passer in the draft and brings poise, accuracy, a quick release, production (4,319 yards and 42 TDs passing in 2021) and underappreciated athleticism to the table. And if RB Christian McCaffrey and WRs DJ Moore, Robby Anderson and Terrace Marshall Jr. are all on the field, Pickett need only efficiently play point guard at the outset for this attack to improve markedly.

7. New York Giants (from Chicago Bears)

DE Kayvon Thibodeaux, Oregon

Given his off-field aspirations, including a post-football career in broadcasting, the Ducks star probably couldn't hope to land in a better market ... assuming, of course, he brings all of his prodigious talent to bear in The Big Apple. Perhaps the prize of the 2019 recruiting class, Thibodeaux might have more potential than any other player in this draft but will have to dispel questions about his dedication to the game and what appears a lack of hustle at times. In 30 games with the Ducks, the 6-4, 254-pounder had 19 sacks and 35½ TFLs. Big Blue had 34 sacks and 53 TFLs in 2021, so a difference maker of Thibodeaux's stature would most certainly be welcome. New York obtained this pick last year when the Bears moved up to select QB Justin Fields.

8. Atlanta Falcons

WR Garrett Wilson, Ohio State

Given all the holes on his roster and dearth of cap space this year, GM Terry Fontenot should want to deal out of this spot to begin collecting assets for an overdue rebuild. But if Willis is already gone, might be a lot tougher to vacate this position given the quality depth available at most other positions. If Fontenot sticks and picks, the 2022 suspension of Calvin Ridley and free agent departure of Russell Gage may move wideout right to the top of his wish list. After laying down a 4.38 40-yard dash at the combine, the 6-foot, 183-pound Wilson bolstered the argument he might be the top pass-catching prospect in a very extensive class of them. He's effective both outside and from the slot and is especially dangerous after the catch, scoring 13 TDs last season (one as a rusher). He would pair very nicely in the pass game – in whatever form it takes – with last year's first-rounder, TE Kyle Pitts.

9. New Orleans Saints (projected trade with Seahawks)

OT Evan Neal, Alabama

Originally property of the Denver Broncos, this slot conveyed to Seattle as part of the Russell Wilson package. It goes to New Orleans in this scenario with the reloading Seahawks securing picks No. 16 and 49 (second round) in exchange. The Saints snatch Neal to reinforce an offensive line that's been such a linchpin to their recent success but was stripped of LT Terron Armstead in free agency. Neal (6-8, 337 pounds) should be a cornerstone left tackle or, worst case, a dominant guard for RB Alvin Kamara to run behind.

10. New York Jets (from Seahawks)

WR Jameson Williams, Alabama

With the final piece of the 2020 Jamal Adams trade, NYJ GM Joe Douglas needs a home run draft after failing to lure any blue-chip free agents this year and coming up short in the derby to pry Hill out of Kansas City. Williams could well become that caliber of playmaker for second-year QB Zach Wilson ... once he fully recovers from the ACL tear suffered in the national championship game against Georgia. So the reward could be worth the risk for a 26th-ranked offense that didn't stretch the field enough when Wilson was on it. Williams was remarkably productive in 2021, averaging 100 receiving yards and a TD catch per game.

11. Washington Commanders

S Kyle Hamilton, Notre Dame

He's 6-4 and 220 pounds with sub-4.6 speed and can shore up deficiencies at the second and/or third levels. Hamilton can provide coverage, a box presence, blitzing ability and an intimidation factor – a varied skill set recently released S Landon Collins just couldn't provide in D.C.

12. Minnesota Vikings

CB Derek Stingley Jr., LSU

His talents as a cover man are undeniable and were apparent for the 2019 national champions, for whom he had six interceptions, earning All-American honors for his efforts. But Lisfranc surgery limited him to three games in 2021 – a year after he was slowed by ankle issues. However a promising showing at LSU's pro day should cement Stingley into the top half of the first round. And what better way to break into the NFL than under the watchful eye of Bayou Bengals great Patrick Peterson, who's back in the Twin Cities for another year?

13. Houston Texans (from Cleveland Browns)

OLB/DE Jermaine Johnson II

This is where Houston officially begins its post-Deshaun Watson recovery, though it's apparent Mills is the man under center for the foreseeable future. But the Texans also need to regenerate their pass rush after years of relying on J.J. Watt and Whitney Mercilus. Johnson (6-5, 262) could form a nice bookend opposite Jonathan Greenard. A Georgia transfer who dazzled at the combine with a sub-4.6 40 time, Johnson comes off a productive senior season that included 11½ sacks and 17½ TFLs.

14. Baltimore Ravens

CB Trent McDuffie, Washington

The latest in a long line of quality Huskies corners, he has 4.4 speed, elite cover skills, smarts and the versatility to play in just about any scheme. The Ravens have historically stockpiled first-rate DBs yet have developed a need with Tavon Young moving to Chicago and Marcus Peters, who's got a year left on his contract, trying to rebound from a torn ACL.

15. Philadelphia Eagles (from Miami Dolphins)

WR Drake London, USC

Yes, this would mean a first-round wideout for a third straight year in Philly. But at 6-4, 219 pounds, London would bring a different element to a Smurf-ish group that hasn't gotten enough from holdovers like Jalen Reagor or 2019 second-round bust J.J. Arcega-Whiteside. London's size would also be a plus for sometimes scattershot QB Jalen Hurts, who could use a Mike Evans-type target. London had 88 catches for 1,084 yards and seven scores in eight games in 2021 before a broken ankle cut his season short.

16. Seattle Seahawks (projected trade with Saints)

DT Jordan Davis, Georgia

Though the "Legion of Boom" secondary largely defined Seattle's defense in its heyday, a deep and dangerous line was just as intrinsic to the success of a unit that allowed the fewest points in the league every season from 2012 to 2015. If coach Pete Carroll wants to get back to that formula in the post-Russell Wilson era, Davis would be a good starting point – and the type of player who might provide maximum results in a rotational role, much like he was deployed in Athens. A 6-6, 341-pound All-American who somehow ran a 4.78 40 at the scouting combine, Davis can crush a pocket and is also a valuable run stuffer – an important weapon against teams like the 49ers and Rams, who historically seek to establish their ground attacks.

17. Los Angeles Chargers

OT Charles Cross, Mississippi State

For an offense that appears so reliant on an aerial assault – and needs to safeguard QB Justin Herbert over the long haul – logic dictates taking Cross, perhaps this draft's premier pure pass protector.

18. Philadelphia Eagles (from Saints)

DT Devonte Wyatt, Georgia

Davis' running mate with the Dawgs, Wyatt ran even faster (4.77) than his buddy in Indianapolis ... though he is a diminutive 6-3 and 304 pounds by comparison. Cat quick, Wyatt has the size that ought to allow him to operate in multiple fronts and roles. And, like Walker, his stats at Georgia probably suffered due to the Bulldogs' deep rotation. Wyatt should fit nicely into a Philly front that looks to be in transition with Fletcher Cox and Brandon Graham likely entering their final seasons here.

19. New Orleans Saints (from Eagles)

WR Chris Olave, Ohio State

If you buy into the notion that New Orleans added a second first-round pick in order to make a push in the seemingly depleted NFC, then acquiring a player with Olave's talent seems sensible. His speed and smooth route running could eventually make him a clear-cut No. 1 target, not to mention his ability to find the end zone – that occurring 32 times in his last 33 games for Ohio State. But in the near term, he'd be a dangerous complement to fellow Buckeye Michael Thomas and Kamara.

20. New York Giants (projected trade with Steelers)

LB Devin Lloyd, Utah

They got a first-hand look at the impact a multi-talented 'backer can have after seeing what Parsons, whom New York could have drafted in 2021, did for Dallas last season. Lloyd had seven sacks ands 22 TFLs for last year's Pac-12 champions but is also stellar in coverage and able to lead a defense. Quite a windfall if Big Blue could land him and Thibodeaux.

21. Kansas City Chiefs (projected trade with Patriots)

WR Jahan Dotson, Penn State

K.C. let Hill go and has only added hyphens since – JuJu Smith-Schuster and Marquez Valdes-Scantling. Not enough, though. No one, especially a rookie, is going to come in and replace Hill's prodigious production and impact. But Dotson (5-11, 178 with 4.4 speed) is a home run hitter with similar stature and explosiveness and very reliable hands. The Chiefs almost certainly need a more consistent deep threat than MVS to deter defenses from ganging up on TE Travis Kelce. And this would be a fairly easy move for Andy Reid and GM Brett Veach to make, packing their 29th pick (previously owned by the San Francisco 49ers and Dolphins) with a third- and fourth-rounder off to New England – meaning Kansas City would still get two cracks in Rounds 1 and 2 while getting ahead of the receiver-starved Packers.

22. Green Bay Packers (from Las Vegas Raiders)

WR Christian Watson, North Dakota State

They haven’t drafted a receiver in Round 1 since Javon Walker in 2002. But this should be the year they’ll need to strongly consider it, most especially with the pick acquired in the show-stopping deal for All-Pro Davante Adams, who had 110 catches in three of the past four seasons. Watson won't replace Adams – who would? – but a 6-5, 208-pound target with 4.36 speed would be a dangerous option for QB Aaron Rodgers.

23. Arizona Cardinals

OT Trevor Penning, Northern Iowa

Perhaps one way to appease disgruntled QB Kyler Murray would be to improve his protection with a bodyguard who will literally fight on his behalf. Also, veteran OTs D.J. Humphries and Kelvin Beachum are both headed for free agency in 2023.

24. Dallas Cowboys

OL Kenyon Green, Texas A&M

He played every O-line position but center for the Aggies in 2021 but took most of his college snaps at left guard. That kind of versatility – and a nice streak of nastiness – would be a boon to a once dominant unit that lost two starters (RT La'el Collins, LG Connor Williams) in free agency and had shown signs of slippage anyway.

25. Buffalo Bills

RB Breece Hall, Iowa State

It's strongly worth considering. Buffalo hasn't had a 900-yard rusher since QB Josh Allen was drafted in 2018, and he's had to shoulder too much of the run game's responsibilities. For a team that appears primed for a Super Bowl run, especially amid Kansas City's loss of Hill, why not add one more difference maker? Hall (6-1, 220) could be an every-down option whose 4.39 speed could bust many games open while reducing wear and tear on Allen. Hall had 3,526 yards from scrimmage and 46 TDs during his last two seasons with the Cyclones.

26. Tennessee Titans

OL Zion Johnson, Boston College

Strong as an ox (combine-high 32 repetitions on the 225-pound bench press) but with light feet, Johnson can line up at tackle or guard – he could replace departed LG Rodger Saffold immediately and LT Taylor Lewan down the line – and would provide a nice boost to a physical offense that wants to dominate up front before Henry runs over the remnants.

27. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

DB Daxton Hill, Michigan

The Bucs are suddenly thin at safety and slot corner. Hill can kill two birds with one stone. His 4.38 speed is an asset at nickel, the box or center field and would create more options for newly promoted head coach Todd Bowles, who will remain intimately involved with the defense.

28. Green Bay Packers

WR Skyy Moore, Western Michigan

We're doubling down on receivers for a franchise that hasn't taken one in Round 1 in two decades. Moore (95 catches for 1,292 yards and 10 TDs in 2021) is a quick, shifty type who can operate out wide or from the slot and broke an FBS-high 26 tackles last season. He'd pair nicely with Watson while giving the Pack two chances to find a guy who might at least replicate a healthy fraction of Adams' lost production. And given Allen Lazard's inconsistency, Randall Cobb's decline – both are free agents next year – and Amari Rodgers' lack of impact (4 receptions) as a rookie, GM Brian Gutekunst might be wise to continue throwing resources at this critical position.

29. New England Patriots (projected trade with Chiefs)

LB Nakobe Dean, Georgia

New England covets good football players, and Bill Belichick seems less likely to be deterred by Dean's 5-11, 229-pound stature given how intelligent, instinctive and rangy the Butkus Award winner and leader of Georgia's championship defense is. (Tedy Bruschi was undersized and underpowered once upon a time, too.) There also appears to be a need here given longtime Pats LB Dont'a Hightower remains a free agent.

30. Kansas City Chiefs

DE Boye Mafe, Minnesota

He had seven sacks in 2021, and his quick first step was partially quantified by the 6-4, 261-pounder's 4.53 40 clocking at the combine. K.C. could certainly use another edge presence in a division now teeming with quality pass rushers hunting its elite quarterbacks, and Mafe could break in as a sub package specialist supplementing Frank Clark and Chris Jones.

31. Cincinnati Bengals

CB Andrew Booth Jr., Clemson

The AFC champs can actually look to improve other areas of their roster after getting three new offensive linemen for QB Joe Burrow in free agency. An All-ACC performer in 2021, Booth (6 feet, 200 pounds) could immediately push to replace Eli Apple as a starter for Cincy's defense ... which couldn't slow down the Rams' passing game in the pivotal moments of Super Bowl 56.

32. Seattle Seahawks (projected trade with Lions)

QB Desmond Ridder, Cincinnati

A first round that might begin with a trade will most certainly end with one – guaranteed since Detroit currently owns the 32nd pick by virtue of last year's deal of QB Matthew Stafford to the Rams. But if the Lions don't spring for a quarterback here, another team very likely could given the value of the fifth-year contract option afforded first-round players – all the more enticing when it comes to the game's most important position. (Lamar Jackson and Teddy Bridgewater were both targeted by teams trading up into the 32nd spot in recent drafts.) With Wilson now gone, perhaps no club has a bigger question under center than Seattle. Ridder is a renowned leader, winner and worker –plus a very good athlete to boot. Sound a bit like the guy he would replace in this scenario? From Detroit's perspective, a deal with Seattle would mean the Lions would only have to move down from No. 32 to 40 while probably adding a fourth-rounder to square the deal.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

DANNY KELLY – THE RINGER

Last updated: April 12, 2022

1 AIDAN HUTCHINSON
EDGE RUSHER MICHIGAN

SHADES OF
SOUPED-UP MAXX CROSBY, MARCUS DAVENPORT

YEAR SENIOR
AGE 21.7

HEIGHT 6'7"
WEIGHT 260

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

The Jaguars go with the highest-floor player in this draft in Hutchinson, who can immediately raise the intensity of the Jacksonville pass rush. He is a great bookend to Josh Allen and gives the team the makings of a dominant defensive front.

2 KAYVON THIBODEAUX
EDGE RUSHER OREGON

SHADES OF
KHALIL MACK, A T-REX IN AN F-14

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE 21.3

HEIGHT 6'4"
WEIGHT 254

DETROIT LIONS

There are whispers among the draft intelligentsia that Thibodeaux may fall a little bit come draft day, but those rumors could also just be well-placed smoke screens. Thibodeaux's talent as an all-around edge defender will be tough to pass up for the Lions. The former Oregon star is a three-down playmaker with elite upside.

3 EVAN NEAL
TACKLE ALABAMA

SHADES OF
MEKHI BECTON

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE 21.6

HEIGHT 6'8"
WEIGHT 337

HOUSTON TEXANS

The Texans build through the trenches by grabbing Neal here. The Alabama product is a plug-and-play starter at right tackle and excellent bookend to left tackle Laremy Tunsil, and the move will give second-year quarterback Davis Mills a pair of quality edge protectors.

4 AHMAD GARDNER
DEFENSIVE BACK CINCINNATI

SHADES OF
DOMINIQUE RODGERS-CROMARTIE

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE 21.6

HEIGHT 6'3"
WEIGHT 190

NEW YORK JETS

In the increasingly quarterback-rich AFC, the Jets look to bolster their pass-coverage unit. Gardner brings shutdown potential to his side of the field, which gives Robert Saleh and company more flexibility with the types of coverages and blitz packages they can run everywhere else.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

DANNY KELLY – THE RINGER

5 IKEM EKWONU
TACKLE NORTH CAROLINA STATE

SHADES OF TRISTAN WIRFS

YEAR JUNIOR | **HEIGHT** 6'4"
AGE -- | **WEIGHT** 310

NEW YORK GIANTS

The Giants need to figure out whether Daniel Jones is worthy of a long-term investment, but they'll have a hard time getting enough information on that decision unless they can give him better protection in the pocket. Ekwonu is a perfect bookend to Andrew Thomas and would give New York the foundation for a solid offensive line.

6 KENNY PICKETT
QUARTERBACK PITTSBURGH

SHADES OF TONY ROMO

YEAR RS SENIOR | **HEIGHT** 6'3"
AGE 23.9 | **WEIGHT** 217

CAROLINA PANTHERS

The Panthers have painted themselves into a corner at the quarterback position in the past year, but they luck out and get their choice of all the top signal-callers in this class here. Pickett has an established relationship with head coach Matt Rhule, who recruited Pickett to Temple (Pickett eventually decommitted and went to Pitt instead) and should win the starting job from day one.

7 TRAVON WALKER
EDGE RUSHER GEORGIA

SHADES OF RASHAN GARY

YEAR JUNIOR | **HEIGHT** 6'5"
AGE 21.3 | **WEIGHT** 272

NEW YORK GIANTS

After addressing the offensive line with their first of two first-round picks, the Giants turn around here and look to the defensive front. Walker is an uber-athletic high-upside defender who reunites with former Georgia teammate Azeez Ojulari to give New York a nice pass-rush foundation.

8 JAMESON WILLIAMS
WIDE RECEIVER ALABAMA

SHADES OF JERRY JEUDY ON 1.5X SPEED

YEAR JUNIOR | **HEIGHT** 6'2"
AGE 21.1 | **WEIGHT** 179

ATLANTA FALCONS

The Falcons have little hope of contending in 2022, so they won't need to rush Williams back too quickly from a torn ACL, which he suffered in the national championship game. The speedy former Crimson Tide star brings the field-tilting impact this offense desperately needs.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

DANNY KELLY – THE RINGER

9 JERMAINE JOHNSON II
EDGE RUSHER FLORIDA STATE

SHADES OF
PRESTON SMITH

YEAR SENIOR
AGE --

HEIGHT 6'5"
WEIGHT 254

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

If the Seahawks have any shot of rebuilding their once-great defense into something resembling the Legion of Boom, they will need more playmaking talent up front. Johnson fits the bill as a long, powerful defensive end with a three-down skill set. He pairs perfectly with Darrell Taylor to give Seattle a solid pass-rush duo.

10 GARRETT WILSON
WIDE RECEIVER OHIO STATE

SHADES OF
ODELL BECKHAM JR. ON RED BULL

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE 21.7

HEIGHT 6'0"
WEIGHT 183

NEW YORK JETS

The Jets haven't really hidden their desire to add receiver talent (with reports they've tried to acquire both Tyreek Hill and DK Metcalf), and they do just that here by grabbing Wilson. The former Buckeyes star complements Corey Davis, Elijah Moore, and Braxton Berrios well, giving Zach Wilson another big-play weapon down the field.

11 KYLE HAMILTON
SAFETY NOTRE DAME

SHADES OF
DERWIN JAMES JR., KEN GRIFFEY JR.

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE 21.1

HEIGHT 6'4"
WEIGHT 220

WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

The Commanders' trade for Carson Wentz indicates they believe they can compete for the playoffs in 2022, so they look to bolster an already talented defense by stopping Hamilton's fall here. Hamilton is a joker-piece defender who can line up all over the formation, giving defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio plenty of schematic options.

12 DEVIN LLOYD
LINEBACKER UTAH

SHADES OF
ISAIAH SIMMONS

YEAR RS SENIOR
AGE --

HEIGHT 6'3"
WEIGHT 237

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

With Jordan Hicks and Eric Kendricks both entering their age-30 seasons, the Vikings look to the future at the middle linebacker spot. Lloyd is a super versatile and rangy playmaker who can wear a number of hats in Ed Donatell's new defense.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

DANNY KELLY – THE RINGER

13 DEVONTE WYATT
INTERIOR DEFENSIVE LINEMAN GEORGIA

SHADES OF
CHRISTIAN WILKINS

YEAR SENIOR
AGE 24.0

HEIGHT 6'3"
WEIGHT 304

HOUSTON TEXANS

After drafting Neal with their first of two picks, the Texans stick with the trenches here and grab an athletic and disruptive defensive tackle. Wyatt is a twitched-up penetrator from the interior who can play on all three downs from day one.

14 JORDAN DAVIS
INTERIOR DEFENSIVE LINEMAN GEORGIA

SHADES OF
AKIEM HICKS, REFRIGERATOR PERRY

YEAR SENIOR
AGE 22.3

HEIGHT 6'6"
WEIGHT 341

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Davis is pretty much exactly what I picture when I think about a Ravens' defensive lineman: He's big, long, extraordinarily athletic, and disruptive. He brings day-one impact potential as a run-plugging two-gap player but also has intriguing upside as a pass rusher.

15 DEREK STINGLEY JR.
DEFENSIVE BACK LSU

SHADES OF
XAVIEN HOWARD

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE 20.8

HEIGHT 6'0"
WEIGHT 190

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

The Eagles run to the podium to turn their card in for this pick. Stingley is a playmaking ball-hawk corner and fills a massive need for Philly. He can line up opposite Darius Slay from the get-go and has the skill set to develop into a shutdown defender.

16 CHARLES CROSS
TACKLE MISSISSIPPI STATE

SHADES OF
LAREMY TUNSIL

YEAR RS SOPHOMORE
AGE 21.4

HEIGHT 6'5"
WEIGHT 307

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

This feels like a damn-near ideal scenario for the Saints, who traded multiple picks to the Eagles for this pick. Cross is a day-one starter at left tackle and is probably the best pure pass-protecting tackle in the class. He'll be a major boon for Jameis Winston.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

DANNY KELLY – THE RINGER

17 TREVOR PENNING
TACKLE NORTHERN IOWA

SHADES OF
JOE STALEY

YEAR RS SENIOR
AGE 22.9

HEIGHT 6'7"
WEIGHT 325

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

The Chargers found themselves a long-term left tackle in Rashawn Slater last year but they still need more talent on their offensive line. Penning has the athletic skill set to play at the right tackle spot for L.A. and should help solidify Justin Herbert's pass-protecting unit.

18 DRAKE LONDON
WIDE RECEIVER USC

SHADES OF
SLIM MIKE EVANS, DENNIS RODMAN

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE 20.7

HEIGHT 6'4"
WEIGHT 219

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

The Eagles grabbed a do-it-all playmaker in last year's draft in DeVonta Smith, but they still lack a true catch-point bully and red-zone threat. London can line up all over the formation and perfectly complements the speed options in Philly's receiver corps. More help for Jalen Hurts is on the way.

19 GEORGE KARLAFTIS
EDGE RUSHER PURDUE

SHADES OF
RYAN KERRIGAN

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE 21.0

HEIGHT 6'4"
WEIGHT 266

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

The Saints add a second early-impact player here in Karlaftis, who can step in and boost the team's pass-rush rotation in 2022. Along with Cam Jordan, Marcus Davenport, and Payton Turner, Karlaftis gives New Orleans a fearsome group up front.

20 MALIK WILLIS
QUARTERBACK LIBERTY

SHADES OF
JALEN HURTS WITH TURBO BOOSTERS

YEAR RS JUNIOR
AGE 22.9

HEIGHT 6'1"
WEIGHT 219

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Pittsburgh is an ideal landing spot for Willis, who may need a little time to adapt to the NFL. With Mitch Trubisky as a bridge option at quarterback, the Steelers will work quickly to enact a succession plan for the recently retired Ben Roethlisberger.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

DANNY KELLY – THE RINGER

21 KAIIR ELAM
DEFENSIVE BACK FLORIDA

SHADES OF JAMEL DEAN

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE 20.9

HEIGHT 6'2"
WEIGHT 191

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

After losing star corner J.C. Jackson to the Chargers in free agency, the Patriots find his replacement in the draft. Elam provides an infusion of youth into an aging secondary.

22 TREYLON BURKS
WIDE RECEIVER ARKANSAS

SHADES OF DEEBO SAMUEL WITH A POWER UP MUSHROOM

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE 22.1

HEIGHT 6'2"
WEIGHT 225

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Burks is a great fit for the Packers, who run a lot of screens and utilize smoke-route quick passes as an extension of their run game. He can make hay after the catch and is also dangerous downfield.

23 ANDREW BOOTH
DEFENSIVE BACK CLEMSON

SHADES OF AQIB TALIB

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE 21.5

HEIGHT 6'0"
WEIGHT 194

ARIZONA CARDINALS

The Cardinals have some intriguing young players in the secondary but need to keep adding playmakers to that unit. Booth is long, physical, and likes to hit in the run game. He has the skill set to start early in his career.

24 BOYE MAFE
EDGE RUSHER MINNESOTA

SHADES OF DARRELL TAYLOR

YEAR RS SENIOR
AGE 22.4

HEIGHT 6'4"
WEIGHT 261

DALLAS COWBOYS

After losing Randy Gregory to the Broncos in free agency, the Cowboys draft his potential replacement here. The former Gophers standout is a rare athlete with the explosive traits to develop into a top-tier pass rusher. Alongside DeMarcus Lawrence and 2021 Defensive Rookie of the Year Micah Parsons, Mafe gives Dan Quinn another tool on defense.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

DANNY KELLY – THE RINGER

25 TRENT MCDUFFIE
DEFENSIVE BACK WASHINGTON

SHADES OF CASEY HAYWARD

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE --

HEIGHT 5'11"
WEIGHT 193

BUFFALO BILLS

The Bills have few roster holes heading into 2022, but adding more playmaking cornerback talent here is a savvy move. McDuffie is an instinctive playmaker with day-one starting potential opposite Tre'Davious White.

26 ZION JOHNSON
GUARD BOSTON COLLEGE

SHADES OF LAKEN TOMLINSON

YEAR RS SENIOR
AGE 22.4

HEIGHT 6'3"
WEIGHT 312

TENNESSEE TITANS

The Titans beef up their offensive line by selecting Johnson, a versatile and tenacious blocker who can fill the up-for-grabs left guard spot on Tennessee's line. Johnson also has a close connection to head coach Mike Vrabel, whose son Tyler was Johnson's teammate and roommate at Boston College.

27 KENYON GREEN
GUARD TEXAS A&M

SHADES OF ELGTON JENKINS

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE 21.1

HEIGHT 6'4"
WEIGHT 323

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

The Buccaneers re-signed Ryan Jensen and Aaron Stinnie in free agency and traded for right guard Shaq Mason, but still need to add reinforcements on the offensive line. Enter Green, a big, burly blocker who can compete for the starting left guard spot early on.

28 ARNOLD EBIKETIE
EDGE RUSHER PENN STATE

SHADES OF YANNICK NGAKOUE

YEAR RS SENIOR
AGE --

HEIGHT 6'2"
WEIGHT 250

GREEN BAY PACKERS

After placating Aaron Rodgers with an exciting wide receiver pick at no. 22, the Packers turn around here and grab a big-impact player for the defense. Ebiketie is long, bendy, and explosive, giving the team another pass rusher in their rotation.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

DANNY KELLY – THE RINGER

29 DAXTON HILL
SAFETY MICHIGAN

SHADES OF DARNELL SAVAGE

YEAR JUNIOR
AGE 21.5

HEIGHT 6'0"
WEIGHT 191

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

The Chiefs' signing of Justin Reid shouldn't preclude them from grabbing another versatile safety here in Hill, who can line up and make plays all over the defense. Hill is an elite athlete with an instinctive nose for the football.

30 CHRIS OLAVE
WIDE RECEIVER OHIO STATE

SHADES OF TYLER LOCKETT WITH A GROWTH SPURT

YEAR SENIOR
AGE 21.8

HEIGHT 6'0"
WEIGHT 187

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

It's impossible to truly replace the speed that Tyreek Hill brought to the Chiefs' offense, but Olave will make things much easier for Patrick Mahomes. The former Buckeyes star is a buttery-smooth lid-lifter on offense who will complement JuJu Smith-Schuster and Marquez Valdes-Scantling well in Kansas City's new-look offense.

31 TYLER LINDERBAUM
CENTER IOWA

SHADES OF COREY LINSLEY

YEAR RS JUNIOR
AGE 22.0

HEIGHT 6'2"
WEIGHT 296

CINCINNATI BENGALS

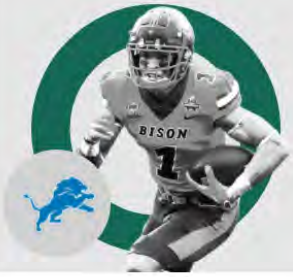
The Bengals took steps in free agency to fix their leaky offensive line by signing Ted Karras, Alex Cappa, and La'el Collins. But Linderbaum is just too good to pass up here: He can kick Karras to left guard and start immediately at center, completing Cincy's near-total offensive line overhaul this offseason.

32 CHRISTIAN WATSON
WIDE RECEIVER NORTH DAKOTA STATE

SHADES OF SVELTE CHASE CLAYPOOL

YEAR SENIOR
AGE 22.9

HEIGHT 6'4"
WEIGHT 208



DETROIT LIONS

The Lions continue to set the foundation for whichever quarterback ends up behind center long term (and we all know it's not Jared Goff) by grabbing Watson, an intriguing FCS playmaker. The former North Dakota State star brings rare athleticism, top-tier length, and experience in a run-heavy college offense, and he should fit right in with Dan Campbell's plans.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

SAM MONSON – PRO FOOTBALL FOCUS

Last updated: April 18, 2022

1. Jacksonville Jaguars

EDGE Aidan Hutchinson, Michigan

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A+

There is an ever-increasing buzz around Travon Walker as the No. 1 overall pick, but I just can't see a good justification to put him above Hutchinson. The Michigan standout also has an incredibly impressive athletic profile but is in a different world in terms of proven college production. Hutchinson recorded 14 more pressures this past season than Walker had in his entire college career, and he posted a PFF grade that puts him in the same ballpark as the Bosa brothers and Myles Garrett when they were coming out.

2. Detroit Lions

EDGE Kayvon Thibodeaux, Oregon

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A-

I think the hype surrounding Walker is real, but any time I go back to the tape, I see a phenomenally good pass-rusher in Thibodeaux, who seems to be the target of a negativity campaign as the draft approaches. He possesses elite burst and twitchiness at the position and can win in a variety of different ways. Thibodeaux posted a 92.0 pass-rush grade against true pass sets this past season and a pass-rush win rate that doubled Walker's mark. We're overthinking things right now, but the Lions won't when they pick.

3. Houston Texans

EDGE Travon Walker, Georgia

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: B-

Walker is a rare athlete in a sport of rare athletes. Of the 12 primary physical and athletic measurables, Walker doesn't rank lower than the 72nd percentile in any while ranking in the 94th percentile or better in at least half of them. He is an NFL edge rusher drawn up in a laboratory who hasn't had the production of one at the college level. Georgia's defense lined him up inside a lot more than other prospects, and it certainly explains some of Walker's lack of production, but it doesn't get you all the way there. A team such as Houston will be banking that it can help him reach his sky-high potential because 60 pressures in three years won't cut it.

4. New York Jets

CB Ahmad 'Sauce' Gardner, Cincinnati

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A-

Jets fans believe cornerback isn't amongst the team's biggest needs, but Gardner could change how the defense functions. He has great coverage skills and incredible length for the position, and those traits simply give opposing quarterbacks nowhere to put the football. Gardner famously didn't give up a touchdown in his entire college career and passes thrown into his coverage generated a 31.8 passer rating — lower than if the quarterback had just thrown the ball at the ground every play instead.

5. New York Giants

T Ikem Ekwonu, NC State

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A

The Giants need offensive line help, and the start of this draft would be a dream scenario for them, as it allows them to have their pick of the group. Ekwonu brings an unparalleled dominant streak to his play and will form a natural bookend pair with Andrew Thomas. The work up front isn't complete even with this pick, but it's a selection that goes a long way to addressing the Giants' biggest problem area.

6. Carolina Panthers

QB Kenny Pickett, Pittsburgh

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: F

Nobody is happy about this — aside from the teams lower down that benefit from a player getting pushed one spot closer to them — but it looks more and more like the Panthers are going to make Pickett their Hail Mary attempt at rescuing the current regime and answering their issue at quarterback. Pickett recorded an elite 92.2 PFF grade this past season — the best of any of the top prospects — but averaged 3.2 seconds to throw — an eternity even at the college level and a potentially massive problem in the NFL.

7. New York Giants (via CHI)

LB Devin Lloyd, Utah

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: C

The more people you talk to in the NFL, the more it becomes clear that the NFL is higher on Lloyd than the draft community in general, so he could easily go well inside the top 10. Lloyd is the modern prototype for the position, possessing the size, length, range and complete skill set to make an impact in all phases of play. It's not the most acute need the Giants could attack, but they might feel he represents the best player they can select due to the run on edge rushers and a tackle already in the bag.

8. Atlanta Falcons

WR Garrett Wilson, Ohio State

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: C+

Atlanta could go in a variety of different directions here, as this is one of the real pivot points of the draft. Given the way things have unfolded thus far, I think the Falcons would look to grab the No. 1 receiver on their board to pair with Kyle Pitts. For me, that's Wilson, who has the cleanest assemblage of skills and abilities in this class. Wilson is good at everything and could have a higher ceiling than people would like to believe.

9. Seattle Seahawks (via DEN)

QB Malik Willis, Liberty

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: B-

Seattle is the other team in this draft that has an acute, desperate and unavoidable need at quarterback. The only place that could potentially be filled outside of the draft is Jimmy Garoppolo — which is unlikely given that he would have to be acquired via trade within the division — or Baker Mayfield, and Seattle doesn't seem tremendously interested in that. Willis has the best arm in this draft, and his rushing ability gives him a much higher floor and Day-1 starting ability than many people think. Willis broke an absurd 90 tackles this past season — the most in the nation.

10. New York Jets (via SEA)

WR Jameson Williams, Alabama

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: B+

Williams brings a game-changing degree of speed to the table. He could be a healthy version of Will Fuller whose impact is felt far in excess of his individual production because of how he changes coverages. Williams can torch defensive backs with speed, but he also has a much greater sophistication to his route running than most when given that speed advantage. He could transform a Jets receiving corps that will be better across the board for his presence.

11. Washington Commanders

T Evan Neal, Alabama

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A

At some point, the top tackles in this draft that have been sliding represent too much value to pass up. Washington may not need a tackle, but Neal could potentially play guard early in his career and would provide a contingency against injury to either tackle spot. Washington fans won't love this pick, but sometimes the smartest picks are the ones when a team just takes an excellent player and worries about how it fits later.

12. Minnesota Vikings

CB Derek Stingley, Jr., LSU

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A+

Stingley is a polarizing prospect at cornerback. Injuries and lackluster play over the last two seasons have some down on his prospects, but his 2019 freshman season was one of the greatest cornerback performances PFF has seen at the college level, and it shows an elite ceiling to his play. That year, Stingley allowed just 37% of the passes thrown his way to be caught and recorded 15 pass breakups along with six interceptions. He would make an immediate impact on a struggling Vikings secondary.

13. Houston Texans (via CLE)

S Kyle Hamilton, Notre Dame

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A+

Hamilton's average 40-yard dash times have probably caused him to slip away from the very top of this draft. He was already battling the perception that a safety isn't worth a top-five selection, and his fate was sealed when he couldn't show elite speed to counter it. At No. 13, though, Hamilton represents great value. He is a huge safety who has fantastic vision and an innate ability to make big plays in coverage. The Texans need talismanic figures on both sides of the ball, and Hamilton could provide one on defense.

14. Baltimore Ravens

DI Jordan Davis, Georgia

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A-

Davis is an enigma — an all-time freak of an athlete who needs projection in several different ways to justify a draft pick this high. Baltimore has a history of coveting big bodies up front and has the kind of program to help him realize his potential. Davis has only played a little over 1,100 snaps in his entire college career and notched only 30 pressures in four years. A team drafting him believes his impact can be orders of magnitude higher than that.

15. Philadelphia Eagles (via MIA)

DI Devonte Wyatt, Georgia

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: B

The Eagles need to get younger on the defensive line. The leaders on that unit are past their prime, so the Eagles need to re-tool that area to make a continued strength. Wyatt is getting overlooked while people focus on Walker and Davis' freakish potential, but Wyatt was the best-graded of the group on that Georgia defense last season, and he was dominant at the Senior Bowl. He can be an heir apparent to Fletcher Cox.

16. New Orleans Saints (via IND through PHI)

T Charles Cross, Mississippi State

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A+

One of the biggest questions in the draft is whether the Saints traded with the Eagles to position themselves for a second trade into the top 10, or if they just wanted an extra first-round selection in this draft because they have more than one acute need that needs to be filled quickly. If they stay where they are, they would be over the moon that Cross falls this far and lets them replace Terron Armstead at left tackle. Cross allowed 16 pressures on over 700 pass-blocking snaps this past season.

17. Los Angeles Chargers

T Trevor Penning, Northern Iowa

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: B+

The Chargers need to attack their offensive line again to make sure that the good work from a year ago is not undone by this offseason's losses, and a lineman such as Penning would go a long way toward ensuring that. Penning has supreme size and athleticism as well as a nasty streak that will make NFL coaches drool. He had an absurd 97.3 PFF grade at Northern Iowa this past season and has been working with offensive line guru Duke Manyweather to clean up some of his flaws.

18. Philadelphia Eagles (via NO)

EDGE George Karlaftis, Purdue

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A+

Karlaftis reminds me a lot of Brandon Graham in terms of playing style, and he's being similarly overlooked at the moment even if he still ends up being drafted in the middle of the first round. Karlaftis had a 90.0-plus. PFF pass-rushing grade last season and a 23.6% pass-rush win rate, which is better than Thibodeaux. He wins with power and versatility, and he will never stop attacking.

19. New Orleans Saints (via PHI)

WR Chris Olave, Ohio State

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A

The Saints' two biggest needs are offensive tackle and wide receiver, so grabbing Chris Olave here allows them to attack both needs in the first round. Olave has incredibly slick movement skills with a gliding style that works before and after the catch. Passes thrown his way in college generated a 133.4 passer rating for his entire career.

20. Pittsburgh Steelers

T Bernhard Raimann, Central Michigan

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A

I could be convinced the Steelers draft a quarterback with this pick, but I think the two most likely to make them pull that trigger are already gone in this scenario. Raimann is just scratching the surface of how good he can be as an offensive tackle, and he's already very good. He allowed just nine pressures across almost 500 pass-blocking snaps and gave up one sack in two years at tackle. He already looks the part of a polished NFL player, and he has only played the position for two years.

21. New England Patriots

CB Trent McDuffie, Washington

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A+

McDuffie has top-10 tape but could slide as far as this because he doesn't have the measurables teams want to see at the position. His arm length ranks in the ninth percentile while is height sits in the 39th percentile. Chasing outliers is typically a fast track to a bad draft, but McDuffie has the kind of production that warrants overlooking those concerns. He didn't give up a touchdown in either of his last two years and at this point in the first round, he would be a steal for New England at a position of need.

22. Green Bay Packers (via LV)

WR George Pickens, Georgia

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: D-

The Packers need receiver help in a big way after trading away Davante Adams to the Las Vegas Raiders. Adams is arguably the best receiver in the league, and even with him in the offense, the Packers haven't had enough firepower at the position in critical situations in recent seasons. Pickens is one of the few receivers in the draft who has a true No. 1 "X" receiver skill set and can replace some of what Green Bay gave up in Adams. Pickens is being underrated because of a torn ACL and a small sample size, but he has elite potential.

23. Arizona Cardinals

C Tyler Linderbaum, Iowa

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A

Linderbaum may be a top-five overall player in this draft, but he doesn't tick all of the size measurables teams want to see while playing a position that is less valuable. The Cardinals' offensive line was transformed when the team traded for Rodney Hudson, but he is coming off the worst PFF season grade of his career and will be 33 years old when the new season starts. Linderbaum would give them a Hudson successor and could challenge to start at guard right away even at his size.

24. Dallas Cowboys

G Zion Johnson, Boston College

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: B-

You could make the case that Dallas could use help at left guard and right tackle, but the team seems to have more faith in Terence Steele to step up than Connor Mcgovern even if there is little evidence that's likely. Neither player earned a PFF grade above 68 last year, but if guard is the move, Johnson makes a lot of sense at this spot. He is the top guard on PFF's big board and allowed six total pressures in 2021.

25. Buffalo Bills

CB Andrew Booth, Jr., Clemson

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: B

Buffalo needs cornerback help and Booth is a physical corner who can fit perfectly into that defense and bring a very high ceiling to the table — even if he needs a little work to get there. Booth has elite footwork but just one year as a full-time starter while posting some ugly losses in that season. Booth is a pick long on potential, but one who could become good in a hurry given the tools he has at his disposal.

26. Tennessee Titans

T Tyler Smith, Tulsa

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: F

A player who is becoming more of a common first-round pick, Smith has been described as the Group of Five version of Ekwonu. Incredibly raw, Smith nonetheless posted a 93.9 PFF run-blocking grade this past season. He has elite power and impressive tools, and he can move inside to guard at the next level if a team doesn't think it can get his tackle mechanics squared away.

27. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

G Kenyon Green, Texas A&M

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: C+

With offensive linemen flying off the board in addition to the Bucs needing to replace Ali Marpet at left guard, they grab Green, who has been all over draft boards as draft day approaches. Green is a massive body who had an elite 93.2 PFF run-blocking grade on zone runs last season. His pass-blocking isn't as clean as some other players, but Tom Brady has amongst the fastest average time to throw in the league, so that job gets easier in this offense.

28. Green Bay Packers

EDGE Jermaine Johnson II, Florida State

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A-

Double-dipping at receiver here wouldn't be crazy, particularly if the Packers wanted to stick it to Kansas City coming up one pick later, but Johnson represents a value that would be tough to turn down. Johnson needed to transfer away from Georgia's loaded defense just to get the opportunity to prove he is a first-round talent, and there are some who think he could go as high as the top five selections in this draft. Johnson posted good-not-great grades and production this season but was outstanding at the Senior Bowl and that will go a long way.

29. Kansas City Chiefs (via SF through MIA)

WR Drake London, USC

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A+

London could easily be the best receiver in this draft, but the ankle injury that ended his season means he may not run a 40-yard dash before the draft to put to bed concerns about his speed. An elite contested-catch target, London led the nation in that category despite playing just eight games. Speed isn't everything, but if he can't prove he has a more-than-pedestrian pace, he could see a slide down the draft when the first round begins.

30. Kansas City Chiefs

EDGE Boye Mafe, Minnesota

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: A-

Few players have the kind of burst and acceleration off the line than Mafe possesses, and he was another player who dominated during the Senior Bowl week in Mobile, Alabama. Mafe recorded a 90.3 PFF pass-rush grade against true pass sets this past season and a 19.2% pass-rush win rate. If he can produce quickly for the Chiefs, he will give them the ability to move away from Frank Clark's onerous contract.

31. Cincinnati Bengals

CB Kaiir Elam, Florida

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: B+

Cincinnati's aggressive free agent strategy means it can enter the draft and not have to force an offensive lineman or attack a glaring weakness. Cornerback makes a lot of sense, but the Bengals also have the capacity to grab a player of value if they see one. Elam has gone toe to toe with some of the best receivers in this draft class, including completely disrupting Williams any time he got up in his face when facing Alabama. His consistency has been spotty, but his potential is elite.

32. Detroit Lions (via LAR)

WR Treylon Burks, Arkansas

PFF Mock Draft Simulator Pick Grade: B+

Burks is a confusing prospect. His workout numbers were average — even adjusting for his size — but his tape shows a consistently explosive playmaker who could have been even more productive with better quarterback play. His college role was a big departure from a conventional NFL receiver, and any team drafting him will need to have a plan to develop that, but the Lions can afford to take a chance on somebody who has that kind of upside to see what they can make of him.

2022 MOCK DRAFTS

ANTHONY TREASH – PRO FOOTBALL FOCUS

Last updated: April 11, 2022

1. Jacksonville Jaguars

EDGE Aidan Hutchinson, Michigan Wolverines

Hutchinson isn't just the best prospect in this class, he is also fresh off a historically good season that generated more PFF Wins Above Average (WAA) than any other edge season in the PFF College era, edging out extraordinary campaigns from Chase Young, Joey Bosa and Nick Bosa.

The Michigan edge defender always has a plan. He knows how to set tackles up and consistently forces them to open the door to the counter back inside. His advanced pass-rushing skill set gives him one of the highest floors of any prospect in this class.

The 6-foot-7, 260-pounder possesses the agility, explosiveness, confidence and violence to thrive on the edge. His technical prowess also led to an elite 90.8 run-defense grade in 2021.

Hutchinson earned an FBS-leading 94.5 overall grade last season and is all but a safe projection to the next level. He could help lead a new era on defense in Jacksonville while QB Trevor Lawrence takes control of the offense.

2. Detroit Lions

EDGE Kayvon Thibodeaux, Oregon Ducks

Thibodeaux isn't the most refined pass-rusher in this class, and opposing offenses spent a lot of time trying to scheme away from him. But, despite all that, the 6-foot-4, 251-pounder still earned a 91.5 pass-rush grade last year.

He boasts all the tools NFL teams desire on the edge and showed improvement throughout his college career. If he can continue on that path of refinement, he can reach NFL All-Pro status.

3. Houston Texans

CB Derek Stingley Jr., LSU Tigers

The LSU corner could well be the best all-around athlete in this class. At The Opening showcase event in high school, the 6-foot-1, 195-pound cornerback posted a 4.3-second 40-yard dash and a 42.0-inch vertical — jaw-dropping numbers for a high school athlete.

Stingley produced the best true freshman season of the PFF College era in 2019 when he posted a 91.7 PFF grade and recorded 21 combined interceptions and pass breakups, all while allowing a catch on just 38% of his targets. He is a top-five talent and the kind of leader Lovie Smith would love to have on his defense.

4. New York Jets

S Kyle Hamilton, Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Despite his slower-than-expected 40-yard dash, Hamilton is still one of the most explosive athletes in the class, and he combines supreme length with fantastic eyes in coverage.

The 6-foot-4, 220-pounder was a true playmaker at Notre Dame and should be the same in the NFL. He totaled 22 combined pass breakups and interceptions in his three-year college career, and only five Power Five safeties recorded more than 15 over that span.

5. New York Giants

CB Sauce Gardner, Cincinnati Bearcats

Gardner allowed just 131 yards across 14 games and 482 coverage snaps in 2021, a performance that will forever be known as one of the best ever seasons by a college defensive back.

Impressively, the 6-foot-3, 190-pounder did that while playing mainly on an island in press-man coverage. He closed out his three-year college career without allowing a single touchdown despite playing over 1,100 coverage snaps. New defensive coordinator Wink Martindale will be able to trust him to win on an island sooner rather than later.

6. Carolina Panthers

T Charles Cross, Mississippi State Bulldogs

Cross, Evan Neal and Ikem Ekwonu are all firmly in the OT1 conversation, but Cross gets my nod because of how well he projects as a pass protector.

The Mississippi State product improved by leaps and bounds this past season, putting up an 84.9 PFF grade after struggling to a mark of 60.7 the year before. After allowing 44 pressures in 2020, he gave up just 16 last season despite playing 145 more pass-blocking snaps.

7. New York Giants (via CHI)

LB Nakobe Dean, Georgia Bulldogs

With the Giants welcoming in Wink Martindale as the new DC, this Giants defense will be aggressive and could look to add more pressure. Creative pressure packages are key to Martindale's defensive success, and Dean comes from a system with the same philosophy. The Georgia off-ball linebacker was one of the best blitzers in college football last season.

Not only was Dean the highest-graded off-ball linebacker of 2021, but he's the only linebacker in the PFF College era to earn a 90.0-plus PFF grade in coverage and as a pass-rusher.

The Georgia product racked up 31 pressures and 15 passing stops in 2021, both of which ranked top-10 among Power Five linebackers. He also ranked sixth in the Power Five in pass-rush win rate (22.3%), allowed a first down at the lowest rate among linebackers (13.5%) and didn't surrender a single touchdown.

Ignore the size concerns with the 5-foot-11, 231-pounder. Dean is the real deal.

8. Atlanta Falcons

QB Desmond Ridder, Cincinnati Bearcats

Arthur Smith's offense is a dream fit for Ridder, the most NFL-ready quarterback in this class.

The Cincinnati product displayed high-level processing and flawlessly executed the Bearcats' pure passing concepts this past season. He got through his progressions, consistently finding the right receiver, and had nine games without a turnover-worthy play this past season — the best mark in the FBS.

Ridder also ranked third among the top seven quarterback prospects in accurate-pass percentage on throws beyond the line of scrimmage. So, while it may not be perfect, his accuracy is not a liability.

Ridder has risen up NFL boards into the first-round conversation after lighting up the Senior Bowl and combine, and he's my top prospect at the position.

9. Seattle Seahawks (via DEN)

T Evan Neal, Alabama Crimson Tide

Neal's 85.8 PFF grade ranked third among all Power Five tackles last year, and he allowed just one pressure per game on average. It was his second consecutive 80.0-plus PFF grade, too, as he posted an 83.7 mark at right tackle in 2020.

The Alabama product is the model of consistency. And his physical tools are off the charts, evidenced by his No. 1 ranking on Bruce Feldman's annual Freaks List. With the Seahawks having to replace both starting tackles in Duane Brown and Brandon Shell, this is a dream scenario.

10. New York Jets (via SEA)

EDGE George Karlaftis, Purdue Boilermakers

Karlaftis defines power. He pairs that power with some of the best hand usage in the class and an explosive get-off that makes life tough on opposing offensive tackles.

The 6-foot-4, 275-pounder showed a lot of promise as an underclassman and maximized his full potential as a true junior, displayed by his 90.6 pass-rush grade this season.

11. Washington Commanders

WR Garrett Wilson, Ohio State Buckeyes

Wilson is coming off back-to-back 80.0-plus PFF grades and makes his mark as a top-notch route-runner. He pairs that with top-notch body control and an innate ability to shake guys in the open field.

The physical aspect of the 6-foot, 183-pound receiver's game is a concern, but it shouldn't be enough to prevent him from sliding further than 11th overall in the 2022 NFL Draft. His game should allow him to have immediate success when in the slot or given a cushion on the outside.

12. Minnesota Vikings

CB Trent McDuffie, Washington Huskies

A season ago, the Vikings outside cornerbacks gave up the third-most yards league-wide (1,802) while tying for the third-fewest plays on the ball (18). And so far, they've made no moves to address that area of need. Enter Trent McDuffie, who earned an 80.0-plus PFF grade as a true freshman, sophomore and junior at Washington.

The 5-foot-11, 193-pound corner allowed just 111 yards across 296 coverage snaps in 2021. He is a fantastic zone cover corner, and his awareness, athleticism, physicality and tackling ability will make him an issue for any underneath passing offense.

13. Houston Texans (via CLE)

EDGE Jermaine Johnson II, Florida State Seminoles

Johnson was the best player on the field for most of the Senior Bowl practices, impressing scouts so much that he opted out of the final day of practice and the game itself.

The 6-foot-4, 259-pound edge defender has over 34-inch arms and the tools to put them into action. He produced multiple pressures in every game he played for Florida State last season and ended the campaign with an 81.0 PFF grade.

14. Baltimore Ravens

OL Ikem Ekwonu, N.C. State Wolfpack

Baltimore might not “need” an offensive tackle, but the thought of taking Ikem Ekwonu and kicking him inside to guard is too good to ignore.

From a run-blocking standpoint, Ekwonu seems destined to be an impactful NFL lineman right away and would add to a potent Baltimore rushing attack. He was one of the nastiest run-blockers of the PFF College era and boasted a 93.8 run-blocking grade for the 2021 season — the highest mark in the Power Five.

Ekwonu’s pass sets are still a concern, and it’s likely going to take some time for him to be a quality pass-protector in the NFL ranks, though he made strides in that department this past season by raising his pass-blocking grade year-over-year from 55.3 to 78.3.

15. Philadelphia Eagles (VIA MIA)

WR Drake London, USC Trojans

Before breaking his ankle in Week 9, London was flying up draft boards and had posted a 91.8 receiving grade along the way. He dominated in one-on-one scenarios, consistently won with physicality and displayed elite ball skills.

Across eight games, the 6-foot-5, 210-pound receiver totaled 19 contested catches, six more than any other Power Five wide receiver through Week 12, and broke a colossal 22 tackles after the catch.

16. New Orleans Saints (via PHI & IND)

WR Chris Olave, Ohio State Buckeyes

In the first edition of this mock, I had this pick traded to the Chicago Bears for a 2023 first-rounder. But then Saints general manager Mickey Loomis decided to give much more than that. In the end, New Orleans gave up Picks 18, 101 and 237 this year, along with their 2023 first-rounder and 2024 second-rounder, in exchange for Picks 16, 19 and 194 this year.

With their newly acquired first-round pick, New Orleans should go after Ohio State wide receiver Chris Olave, who has the wheels to be a deep threat at the next level and is one of the more refined route-runners in the class. He ranks first in the Power Five in deep receiving touchdowns over the last three seasons and stands at the 97th percentile in separation rate over that span.

17. Los Angeles Chargers

WR Jameson Williams, Alabama Crimson Tide

The thought of Justin Herbert slinging deep bombs to Williams — one of the fastest pass-catchers in this class — is far too enticing to pass up.

While the Alabama receiver tore his ACL in their National Championship Game, he is expected to be ready to go around the start of training camp. He earned an 85.1 receiving grade in his lone season with the Crimson Tide after transferring over from Ohio State, and he also racked up an FBS-leading 12 20-plus-yard touchdowns.

18. Philadelphia Eagles (via NO)

LB Devin Lloyd, Utah Utes

There are few bones to pick with Lloyd's game as a prospect. He's explosive, intuitive and has the frame and physicality the NFL is looking for.

Lloyd was one of only four players at the position who earned a 90.0-plus PFF grade in 2021. He graded above 80.0 against the run, in coverage and as a blitzer.

19. New Orleans Saints (via PHI)

T Bernhard Raimann, Central Michigan Chippewas

New Orleans is in the market for a new left tackle after they were forced to let Terron Armstead walk in free agency.

While it may take some time to adjust to the NFL, Raimann is an incredibly promising prospect. He grew up in Austria, came to the USA as a foreign exchange student, and secured a scholarship at Central Michigan after one year of high school football. He started his career at tight end for two seasons before switching to tackle the past two seasons and notably earned PFF MAC Offensive Player of the Year honors for his performance in 2021.

Measuring in at 6-foot-7 and 305 pounds, Raimann earned a 94.3 PFF grade last season, putting up a 93.3 run-block grade and an 88.7 pass-block grade to boot. He was virtually flawless in pass protection over his last six games, too, with zero pressures allowed in that span.

20. Pittsburgh Steelers

QB Malik Willis, Liberty Flames

Willis tops this quarterback class in terms of tools, as his rushing ability gives him a high floor while his big arm gives him one of the highest ceilings in the class. The Liberty product led the FBS in both PFF rushing grade (94.5) and big-time throw rate (11%) a season ago.

There are concerns about how raw he is as a passer, which makes it very possible he ends up closer to his floor in the long run. He will need to work on his decision-making, pocket presence, accuracy, timing and inconsistency within his platform. He made strides in some of those areas last season, but there is still a long road ahead.

21. New England Patriots

CB Andrew Booth Jr., Clemson Tigers

Booth doesn't quite have the lockdown numbers as some of the other top corner prospects in this class, as he allowed 329 yards across 288 coverage snaps in 2021. However, he does have the tools worth taking a swing on in the first round.

The 2019 five-star recruit has exceptional feet, good length and brings the physicality out on the field. Booth also made up for lost time down the stretch of 2021, as he combined for five interceptions and pass breakups in his final three starts.

22. Green Bay Packers (via LV)

WR Christian Watson, North Dakota State Bison

Watson has been one of the draft's biggest risers over recent months. The 6-foot-4, 208-pound wideout earned an 89.5 receiving grade while generating an astounding 4.33 yards per route run playing in a run-heavy Bison offense last year. He followed that up with one of the best Senior Bowl showings at the position, finishing in the top-three in PFF grade during the one-on-ones.

Watson caught the attention of coaches, scouts and executives at the event and generated even more hype with an elite combine performance.

Those testing times and measurements are unbelievable for a player his size. He can be a true X, but teams could also use him creatively, as the San Francisco 49ers do with Deebo Samuel.

23. Arizona Cardinals

CB Kaiir Elam, Florida Gators

Elam put up a PFF coverage grade of 89.8 as a true freshman in 2019 and followed that up with an 81.0 grade as a sophomore in 2020, dominating so much that opposing offenses largely avoided him in 2021.

Elam was targeted three or fewer times in over half of his games this past year. However, his PFF grade was dragged down by penalties, which speaks volumes about how overly physical he can get.

Elam's game may take some time to translate to the NFL level, but he has the traits to be a quality press-man corner — something Vance Joseph's defense desperately needs.

24. Dallas Cowboys

DI Devonte Wyatt, Georgia Bulldogs

No Power Five interior defensive lineman earned a higher PFF grade in 2021. Wyatt also earned a grade above 80.0 both against the run and as a pass-rusher — something no other player at the position in the Power Five accomplished.

The former Georgia Bulldog was the most impactful interior defender in the Power Five. That carried through the Senior Bowl, where he led all at the position in win rate during the one-on-ones.

25. Buffalo Bills

WR Jahan Dotson, Penn State Nittany Lions

Dotson may not be a physically imposing receiver, but he is a promising prospect because of his ball skills and strong route-running ability. The 5-foot-11, 178-pound receiver is coming off an 87.5 PFF grade and dropped only two of his 138 targets. He made highlight-reel catches look routine at Penn State and should continue to do so at the NFL level.

26. Tennessee Titans

WR Skyy Moore, Western Michigan Broncos

The highest-graded wide receiver of the 2021 college football season wasn't any of the Power Five top prospects — it was Western Michigan's Skyy Moore.

The 5-foot-10, 195-pound receiver's 26 broken tackles after the catch tied for the most among wide receivers in 2021, and he ranked in the 95th percentile in separation percentage. Despite his smaller stature, Moore had no issue handling press coverage on the outside, ranking top-five in yards per route run on those reps last season at 3.58. The cherry on top is his strong hands — the Western Michigan pass-catcher checked in with the largest hands of anyone at the Combine (10.25 inches) and dropped just three of his 125 targets in 2021 while catching eight of his 13 contested opportunities.

27. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

DI Jordan Davis, Georgia Bulldogs

Taking Jordan Davis to slot in alongside Vita Vea would take Tampa's run defense to another level. It's no secret that the 6-foot-6, 341-pounder is a freaky athlete, and he projects as a high-level run-stuffer at the next level.

Davis earned an 89.2 run-defense grade while collecting 47 run stops and 17 tackles for loss or no gain over the last three years. He missed just four of his 75 tackle attempts against the run over that span.

The problem is that Davis is far from a refined pass-rusher and not an every-down player. He played just over a third of the team's snaps this past season and turned in a lackluster 69.0 pass-rush grade for the season.

Run-stuffing interior defensive linemen are valuable pieces in the NFL, but Davis' ceiling will only be so high if this playstyle remains. For that reason, Davis comes off the board late in Round 1 for me.

28. Green Bay Packers

EDGE Boye Mafe, Minnesota Golden Gophers

Mafe is one of the most underrated players in the 2022 class. The 6-foot-4, 261-pound edge defender is an elite athlete with a fantastic get-off and has continuously improved his pass-rush toolbox. He owns a 90.7 pass-rush grade for his collegiate career and posted the highest win rate of any pass-rusher at the Senior Bowl.

29. Kansas City Chiefs (via MIA & SF)

CB Kyler Gordon, Washington Huskies

Gordon may not have elite long speed, but he is an explosive and agile athlete with a high ceiling. He put up an 89.6 coverage grade in 2021 — his first full season starting — despite not being the most technically refined or instinctive corner. He still managed to produce at a borderline elite level in his last year at Washington, and he still has so much more room to grow.

30. Kansas City Chiefs

EDGE Travon Walker, Georgia Bulldogs

This is an unpopular opinion, but I am not comfortable with taking Walker any earlier than the end of Round 1.

The Georgia edge defender is in rare territory from a tools perspective. He clocked a 4.51-second 40-yard dash (97th percentile among edge historically), 35-inch vertical (76th), 10-foot-3 broad jump (85th), 4.32-second short shuttle (70th) and 6.89-second three-cone (93rd). He also has long arms that measure in at 35.5 inches.

But, from a technical standpoint, Walker is a risky bet. His pass-rush move arsenal is non-existent, with little to no natural feel. The 6-foot-5, 272-pounder relied on his length with the bull rush and long arm, but it still wasn't effective against college tackles, even with that advantage.

Despite playing for a historically good defense in 2021, the Georgia product still produced just a 66.1 pass-rush grade and an 11.2% win rate in his three years in Athens.

His lack of development while playing for an A-list program is a major concern. And while there's no denying what he can develop into with further top-notch coaching, it's likely going to be multiple years before Walker can fully maximize his physical gifts, if at all. A contender like Kansas City can take on this risk.

31. Cincinnati Bengals

C Tyler Linderbaum, Iowa Hawkeyes

Linderbaum is arguably a top-10 prospect, but the problem is that there's not a pressing need for a starting center across the league, especially within zone offenses where the Iowa product best fits.

Cincinnati could certainly use Linderbaum's services, even after signing three new offensive linemen in free agency. The Bengals signed free agent Ted Karras to play center, but he can easily stick at left guard, where he played in 2021 for the Patriots.

Linderbaum may be undersized, but he's an ultra-athlete who plays bigger than his size suggests. He was a top-five-graded center in all three years starting at the position, including in 2021 when he broke the single-season grading record for a center.

32. Detroit Lions (via LAR)

S Jalen Pitre, Baylor Bears

Slot corners are valuable pieces to the defense, and Pitre was one of the best slot corners in college football over the last two years at Baylor, producing a top-three slot coverage grade among Power Five defensive backs in that span.

The former Baylor Bear didn't allow a single touchdown in the slot while producing the second-most passing stops (20) and 11 combined plays on the ball. Pitre was also a stout run defender and an excellent pass-rusher, whether in the slot or on the occasions he moved closer to the ball at outside linebacker. He posted a 92.7 run-defense and 83.6 pass-rush grade in 2021.

Pitre has the skill set to be a more versatile player in the league than he was at Baylor, but at a minimum, he should be a strong slot defender. He has the physical instinct, quickness and processing ability to do so.

PLAYER RANKINGS

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS (BIG BOARD)

MEL KIPER JR. – ESPN.com

Last updated: April 3, 2022

1. Aidan Hutchinson, DE, Michigan

HT: 6-6 **| WT:** 265 **| Previously:** 1

Hutchinson had a consistently dominant season on the way to finishing as the runner-up in the voting for the Heisman Trophy. He had 14 sacks, 19 tackles for loss and two forced fumbles. He finished fifth in the country in pressure rate (16.5%). He is advanced as a pass-rusher -- he already has a few go-to moves -- and is relentless on every snap. Hutchinson dominated Ohio State at the end of the regular season, picking up three sacks. He played only 144 defensive snaps in 2020 before he sustained a leg injury and had to have surgery; the Michigan defense cratered after he was hurt. He was outstanding as a sophomore in 2019, putting up 4.5 sacks and creating havoc in the backfield (10.5 tackles for loss).

2. Ikem Ekwonu, OT, NC State

HT: 6-4 **| WT:** 320 **| Previously:** 2

Ekwonu bullies pass-rushers. He toys with them. He has played both guard and tackle in his career, but he excelled at left tackle in 2021. He moves his feet well in the run game and can get to the next level. I still want to see his arm length measurement, but people inside the league whom I trust think he can stick at left tackle regardless. He has been a riser over the past few months, and people I trust in the league rave about him.

3. Evan Neal, OT, Alabama

HT: 6-7 **| WT:** 360 **| Previously:** 4

It would also not be totally outlandish to see Neal picked No. 1 in the draft. The Jaguars need a stalwart left tackle, and that's Neal, who has a massive frame and stellar physical traits. I put him at No. 3 to the Texans in my debut mock draft. He started at right tackle in 2020 and was Bama's starting left guard as a freshman in 2019. He moved over to the left side in 2021, taking over for first-round pick Alex Leatherwood. Neal is the complete package, excelling as a run-blocker and also in moving his feet as a pass protector.

4. Ahmad "Sauce" Gardner, CB, Cincinnati

HT: 6-3 | WT: 200 | Previously: 8

Gardner is a lockdown corner, and other teams know it. He was targeted just 31 times in 2021, and he allowed only eight catches for 60 yards as the nearest defender in coverage. He was targeted only one time against Alabama in the College Football Playoff semifinal, and the throw was incomplete. In fact, there were five games in 2021 when he allowed zero catches. He's a legit No. 1 corner. Gardner had three picks in 2021 and nine in his three-year career with the Bearcats.

5. Kyle Hamilton, S, Notre Dame

HT: 6-4 **| WT:** 219 **| Previously:** 3

Hamilton played in only seven games in 2021, as he injured his right knee against USC in late October and didn't return. There aren't many safeties with Hamilton's size and speed, and he was one of the most versatile defenders in the country in college. He had two interceptions against Florida State and added another in the win over Purdue. He had eight total in his career. Hamilton has the size to move up to the line of scrimmage and help in the running game and the speed and range to cover pass-catchers out of the slot. He's exactly what NFL teams want in their first-round safeties.

6. Kayvon Thibodeaux, DE, Oregon

HT: 6-5 **| WT:** 250 **| Previously:** 6

After missing a few games because of an ankle injury he suffered in the season opener, Thibodeaux was spectacular in his return. He had a strip sack, another sack and nine total tackles against UCLA. Against Cal the week before, he had a sack and 10 pressures. He finished the season with seven sacks and two forced fumbles, and even though he had half as many sacks as Hutchinson, he had the second-best pressure rate in the country (17.8%). Thibodeaux, the No. 1-ranked high school recruit in 2019, is an elite pass-rushing talent with the quickness and bend to get double-digit sacks annually at the next level. He had nine sacks as a true freshman in 2019 and had three more and 9.5 tackles for loss in seven games last season.

7. Garrett Wilson, WR, Ohio State

HT: 6-0 **| WT:** 193 **| Previously:** 9

Wilson played mostly out of the slot in 2020, catching 43 passes and averaging almost 17 yards per reception, but he did most of his damage outside last season. He's dynamic with the ball in his hands and can run away from defenders after the catch. Here he is doing that against a Minnesota defensive back for a 56-yard score. He had 70 catches for 1,058 yards and 12 touchdowns this season, including six in his final three games. His versatility will help at the next level. Wilson and Chris Olave formed one of the best wideout tandems in the country.

8. Drake London, WR, USC

HT: 6-5 **| WT:** 210 **| Previously:** 7

London was having a phenomenal season before he fractured his right ankle against Arizona on Oct. 30. He had 88 catches for 1,084 yards and seven touchdowns, averaging 11 catches and 136 yards per game. London, who played on the USC basketball team in 2019-20, towers over Pac-12 defenders, and he can outleap just about any corner. He had 72 catches for 1,069 yards and eight touchdowns from 2019 to 2020. I noticed a few concentration drops this season -- he had five after just one the previous two seasons -- but he does have soft hands and a huge catch radius.

9. Derek Stingley Jr., CB, LSU

HT: 6-1 **| WT:** 195 **| Previously:** 5

Stingley injured his foot and played in just three games in 2021. It's not ideal for an NFL prospect, but he had two full seasons of starting tape before that, so I don't think it will be an issue in the draft. I wrote about him and his ceiling in the fall, and he's one of the top corners in this class even though he hasn't been consistently great since 2019. This ranking is all about his upside. His freshman film, when he was one of the best players on LSU's national title team, is tremendous. He didn't play as well in 2020, but that can mostly be attributed to the entire LSU defense being dreadful. He has shown that he can lock down SEC receivers. There are going to be questions about his up-and-down play, but NFL teams will see more good tape than bad and draft him based on his ceiling.

10. Travon Walker, DE, Georgia

HT: 6-5 **| WT:** 275 **| Previously:** 10

Walker is a great example of why you shouldn't just look at the stat sheet. He pops on tape, even if he doesn't have great production. The Georgia defense was loaded with talent, so he wasn't always the one to get a tackle for loss here or a sack there. But he was always around the football, and he blew up several plays. Walker finished the season with six sacks -- including two in the College Football Playoff games. He could end up as a 3-4 defensive end in the NFL.

11. Jermaine Johnson II, DE, Florida State

HT: 6-5 **| WT:** 260 **| Previously:** 13

Johnson landed on my Big Board in September and hovered in the 30s for most of the season, but I had to move him back up after the Senior Bowl. He dominated in Mobile, Alabama, and looked like one of the best prospects there. He has the potential to be a great edge rusher at the next level. Johnson, who transferred from Georgia, ended the 2021 season with 12 sacks and two forced fumbles. He's a classic defensive end with some bend and burst off the edge.

12. Charles Cross, OT, Mississippi State

HT: 6-5 **| WT:** 310 **| Previously:** 14

Cross leveled up in 2021. He allowed just one sack and five pressures, and that's with playing in a pass-heavy Mike Leach offense. He was dominant against a good LSU front and more than held his own against the mega-talented Alabama defense. He forces edge rushers into a stalemate. Cross has long arms and good feet, and his coaches rave about his work ethic and attention to detail. He showed potential last season, his first as a starter, but he's also asked to do a lot in Leach's offense, and so he had some poor pass-blocking reps. He allowed five sacks and 13 pressures on 556 pass blocks in 2020.

13. Daxton Hill, S, Michigan

HT: 6-0 **| WT:** 191 **| Previously:** NR

Hill is an intriguing prospect who has risen since the combine because of his speed and versatility. He ran a 4.38-second 40-yard dash in Indy, one of the fastest times for a safety in recent years. He played mostly as a nickelback for the Wolverines last season and could end up as a slot corner for his NFL team. The former five-star high school recruit is a playmaker (two picks last season) who tackles well and is a good blitzer. Hill has the positional flex of being a deep safety or matchup corner.

14. Chris Olave, WR, Ohio State

HT: 6-1 **| WT:** 188 **| Previously:** 15

Olave had a tremendously productive four-year career for the Buckeyes, with 176 catches for 2,711 yards and a whopping 35 touchdowns. Thirteen of those scores came in 2021. He's one of the best deep threats in this class -- he averaged 14.6 air yards per target in his career -- and is an improved route runner with great hands, though he did have a few drops this past season. Olave can make defenders look silly in coverage; there are lots of plays on tape in which he doesn't have a player within 5 yards of him. He ran a 4.39-second 40-yard dash at the combine.

15. Trent McDuffie, CB, Washington

HT: 5-11 **| WT:** 195 **| Previously:** 12

McDuffie only had two interceptions in three seasons at Washington -- including zero in 2021 -- but don't discount his ability to shut down receivers. He allowed just one reception of more than 20 yards last season, and he didn't allow any touchdowns. In fact, going back to the four games he played in 2020, he didn't allow any scores then, either. McDuffie can play in the slot or outside, and he can play press coverage too. He's a really good player who is rising after a tremendous season.

16. Malik Willis, QB, Liberty

HT: 6-1 **| WT:** 215 **| Previously:** 18

Willis has been a tough evaluation because of the talent he had around him. He had to elevate his teammates because he didn't get a lot of help; he was sacked 51 times in 2021, which led the FBS. But NFL evaluators are really high on his ceiling, and he's the most talented quarterback in this class. Can he reach that ceiling? That will depend on the situation in which he lands, but the hope is that once he gets around NFL talent, those players can elevate him.

The Auburn transfer threw 27 touchdown passes and 12 interceptions in 2021, but he had three different three-pick games. He added 13 scores on the ground. His completion percentage dropped from his breakout 2020 season (64.2% to 61.1%), but again, that's not all on him.

17. Kenny Pickett, QB, Pitt

HT: 6-3 **| WT:** 220 **| Previously:** 19

I was hoping one of the quarterbacks would emerge at the Senior Bowl as the clear-cut No. 1 in this class, but that didn't happen. It's still very close at the top, and teams are going to differ atop their boards. As of now, Pickett is the guy I feel most comfortable about as an NFL starter. He was incredibly impressive in 2021, throwing 42 touchdown passes with seven interceptions. He was up and down the previous two seasons, with 18 picks and an average of 6.9 yards per attempt. He averaged 8.7 in 2021, taking a huge step in every way. Pickett is accurate to all three levels of the field, has shown patience in taking the checkdown throws when necessary and has good zip on his throws.

My comp for him has been a combo of Derek Carr/Andy Dalton, and NFL teams can win with that kind of guy. As I have mentioned, hand size is an issue -- he measured 8½ inches at the combine -- and some teams could be scared away from that, But there's a lot to like with his improvement; also, his ability to use his legs to maneuver the pocket and scramble when he has to is underrated.

18. Tyler Linderbaum, C, Iowa

HT: 6-3 **| WT:** 290 **| Previously:** 11

Linderbaum is one of the best center prospects in recent memory. He can do everything, and he excels as a puller to either side. He's a stellar run-blocker and is incredibly strong at the point of attack. He doesn't have many weaknesses. Linderbaum allowed just one sack in the 2019 and 2020 seasons combined. He allowed two in 2021, but I'm still huge fan of his game and upside regardless.

19. Trevor Penning, OT, Northern Iowa

HT: 6-7 **| WT:** 321 **| Previously:** 17

Penning destroyed edge rushers at the FCS level. He's consistently dominant in both the run and pass game. "Rugged" is the word I'd use to describe his game. And though he wasn't playing against NFL-caliber players every week, I think he has a chance to be an elite guy. He played mostly at left tackle for the Panthers, who had 2021 third-rounder Spencer Brown on the right side from 2017 to 2019. Penning has flashed more than Brown did. He could be an early NFL starter; he had a good week at the Senior Bowl in early February.

20. Jameson Williams, WR, Alabama

HT: 6-2 **| WT:** 185 **| Previously:** 24

Williams was one of the best stories of the season. The Ohio State transfer had 79 catches for 1,572 yards and 15 touchdowns, and he was targeted 120 times and had just three drops. He turned into the best deep threat in the country. He has blazing speed. Williams, though, tore his ACL in the national title game, which is going to drop him down some teams' boards. He could have been a top-10 pick, and now he's going to slide a little bit. It's a little too early to determine if he's still going in the top 20 picks, but NFL teams will be watching his rehab closely. I was really impressed with his all-around game in 2021; he's a No. 1 NFL receiver when healthy.

21. Jahan Dotson, WR, Penn State

HT: 5-11 | WT: 184 | Previously: 20

Dotson is explosive. He had an incredible leaping catch against Illinois, and look how open he is on this 49-yard touchdown against Wisconsin. Plus, check out Penn State's first offensive play against Villanova, a 52-yard strike to Dotson in which he showed acceleration at the catch. While he had a few drops in 2019 and 2020, he has dropped only two passes this season. He had 91 catches for 1,182 yards and 12 scores, including six in his final four games.

22. Devin Lloyd, LB, Utah

HT: 6-3 **| WT:** 235 **| Previously:** 16

Lloyd had a fantastic season for the Utes, with 111 total tackles, eight sacks, 20 tackles for loss, four interceptions (two pick-sixes, including one in the Pac-12 title game) and a forced fumble. He blows by linemen at the snap, but Utah also uses him often in coverage, showing off his range as an off-ball defender. Lloyd was used more as a pass-rusher in 2019, racking up 6.5 sacks. He had 16.5 for his career. The versatility stands out as a major plus. I've compared him to former top-five pick Devin White, though he doesn't have the same straight-line speed (he ran an underwhelming 4.66-second 40-yard dash at the combine).

23. Devonte Wyatt, DE, Georgia

HT: 6-3 **| WT:** 304 **| Previously:** 23

Wyatt has been a huge riser during the pre-draft process, as he impressed at the Senior Bowl and then had a great workout at the combine. He had only five sacks in four college seasons, but many scouts think he could thrive as a 3-technique penetrator at the next level. He has a nice blend of quickness and strength at the point of attack. I projected him as a fit for Arizona in my latest mock draft.

24. Kenyon Green, G, Texas A&M

HT: 6-4 **| WT:** 323 **| Previously:** NR

Green started games at four different positions last season, including both tackle and guard spots. There was some thought before the season that he could end up as a left tackle, but his best position is guard. He's a strong run blocker and moves his feet well when pulling. He can crunch defenders. Green allowed just two pressures last season on 194 pass blocks at left guard, the position he played most. He will be an instant starter in the NFL.

25. David Ojabo, OLB, Michigan

HT: 6-5 | WT: 250 | Previously: 25

Ojabo has dropped down the board because of a crushing Achilles injury suffered at his pro day in mid-March. He might fall all the way into Round 2 now. Still, he was one of the most impressive newcomers in the country in 2021. A third-year sophomore who spent his youth in Nigeria and Scotland (check out my colleague Jordan Reid's piece on him for more), he had 11 sacks and five forced fumbles playing on the other side of Aidan Hutchinson. He has flashed advanced pass-rush moves -- check out this spin on the right tackle for a strip sack against Indiana -- and his physical traits pop on tape. While Ojabo needs to work on his all-around game, there's a lot to like. Good teams that don't have immediate needs should target him late on Day 1.

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSTION

MEL KIPER JR. – ESPN.com

Last updated: April 3, 2022

Quarterbacks
1. Malik Willis, Liberty
2. Kenny Pickett, Pitt
3. Matt Corral, Ole Miss
4. Desmond Ridder, Cincinnati
5. Carson Strong, Nevada
6. Sam Howell, North Carolina
7. Bailey Zappe, Western Kentucky
8. Cole Kelley, SE Louisiana
9. Jack Coan, Notre Dame
10a. Skylar Thompson, Kansas State
10b. Dustin Crum, Kent State
10c. E.J. Perry, Brown
10d. Kaleb Eleby, Western Michigan

Running backs
1. Breece Hall, Iowa State
2. Kenneth Walker III, Michigan State
3. James Cook, Georgia
4. Pierre Strong Jr., South Dakota State
5. Isaiah Spiller, Texas A&M
6. Rachaad White, Arizona State
7. Kyren Williams, Notre Dame
8. Dameon Pierce, Florida
9. Jerome Ford, Cincinnati
10a. Tyler Badie, Missouri
10b. Ty Chandler, North Carolina
10c. Tyler Goodson, Iowa

Fullbacks/H-backs
1. Connor Heyward, Michigan State
2. Jeremiah Hall, Oklahoma
3. Chigoziem Okonkwo, Maryland
4. Abram Smith, Baylor
5. Tanner Conner, Idaho State
6. John Chenal, Wisconsin
7. Clint Ratkovich, Northern Illinois
8. Sean Dykes, Memphis
9. Jack Colletto, Oregon State
10. Roger Carter, Georgia State

Wide receivers
1. Garrett Wilson, Ohio State
2. Drake London, USC
3. Chris Olave, Ohio State
4. Jameson Williams, Alabama
5. Jahan Dotson, Penn State
6. Treylon Burks, Arkansas
7. Skyy Moore, Western Michigan
8. Christian Watson, North Dakota State
9. Alec Pierce, Cincinnati
10a. Calvin Austin III, Memphis
10b. John Metchie III, Alabama
10c. George Pickens, Georgia
10d. Wan'Dale Robinson, Kentucky
10e. Velus Jones Jr., Tennessee
10f. Khalil Shakir, Boise State
10g. Isaiah Weston, Northern Iowa

Tight ends
1. Trey McBride, Colorado State
2. Greg Dulcich, UCLA
3. Jelani Woods, Virginia
4. Isaiah Likely, Coastal Carolina
5. Jalen Wydermyer, Texas A&M
6. Jeremy Ruckert, Ohio State
7. Charlie Kolar, Iowa State
8. Daniel Bellinger, San Diego State
9. Cade Otton, Washington
10a. Derrick Deese Jr., San Jose State
10b. James Mitchell, Virginia Tech
10c. Jake Ferguson, Wisconsin

Offensive tackles
1. Ikem Ekwonu, OT, NC State
2. Evan Neal, OT, Alabama
3. Charles Cross, Mississippi State
4. Trevor Penning, Northern Iowa
5. Tyler Smith, Tulsa
6. Abraham Lucas, Washington State
7. Nicholas Petit-Frere, Ohio State
8. Bernhard Raimann, Central Michigan
9. Daniel Faalele, Minnesota
10a. Matt Waletzko, North Dakota
10b. Kellen Diesch, Arizona State
10c. Luke Goedeke, Central Michigan

Guards
1. Kenyon Green, Texas A&M
2. Zion Johnson, Boston College
3. Dylan Parham, Memphis
4. Sean Rhyan, UCLA
5. Cole Strange, UT-Chattanooga
6. Jamaree Salyer, Georgia
7. Darian Kinnard, Kentucky
8. Logan Bruss, Wisconsin
9. Marquis Hayes, Oklahoma
10a. Joshua Ezeudu, North Carolina
10b. Chris Paul, Tulsa
10c. Thayer Munford, Ohio State

Centers
1. Tyler Linderbaum, Iowa
2. Cameron Jurgens, Nebraska
3. Dohnovan West, Arizona State
4. Luke Fortner, Kentucky
5. Zach Tom, Wake Forest
6. Alec Lindstrom, Boston College
7. Dawson Deaton, Texas Tech
8. Luke Wattenberg, Washington
9. Doug Kramer, Illinois
10. Ben Brown, Ole Miss

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSTION

MEL KIPER JR. – ESPN.com

Defensive ends
1. Devonte Wyatt, Georgia
2. Jordan Davis, Georgia
3. Travis Jones, Connecticut
4. Perrion Winfrey, Oklahoma
5. Logan Hall, Houston
6. DeMarvin Leal, Texas A&M
7. Phidarian Mathis, Alabama
8. Matthew Butler, Tennessee
9. Neil Farrell Jr., LSU
10. Kalia Davis, UCF

Defensive tackles
1. Devin Lloyd, Utah
2. Nakobe Dean, Georgia
3. Quay Walker, Georgia
4. Troy Andersen, Montana State
5. Chad Muma, Wyoming
6. Damone Clark, LSU
7. Leo Chenal, Wisconsin
8. Brandon Smith, Penn State
9. Brian Asamoah, Oklahoma
10a. Chance Campbell, Ole Miss
10b. Darien Butler, Arizona State
10c. Jack Sanborn, Wisconsin
10d. Mike Rose, Iowa State

Inside linebackers
1. David Ojabo, Michigan
2. Arnold Ebiketie, Penn State
3. Channing Tindall, Georgia
4. Amare Barno, Virginia Tech
5. Nik Bonitto, Oklahoma
6. Boye Mafe, Minnesota
7. Christian Harris, Alabama
8. DeAngelo Malone, Western Kentucky
9. Drake Jackson, USC
10a. JoJo Domann, Nebraska
10b. Dominique Robinson, Miami (Ohio)
10c. Adam Anderson, Georgia

Outside linebackers
1. Ahmad Gardner, Cincinnati
2. Derek Stingley Jr., LSU
3. Trent McDuffie, Washington
4. Andrew Booth Jr., Clemson
5. Kyler Gordon, Washington
6. Kaiir Elam, Florida
7. Roger McCreary, Auburn
8. Marcus Jones, Houston
9. Tariq Woolen, UTSA
10a. Coby Bryant, Cincinnati
10b. Zyon McCollum, Sam Houston State
10c. Josh Jobe, Alabama

Safeties
1. Kyle Hamilton, Notre Dame
2. Daxton Hill, Michigan
3. Lewis Cine, Georgia
4. Jaquan Brisker, Penn State
5. Jalen Pitre, Baylor
6. JT Woods, Baylor
7. Nick Cross, Maryland
8. Verone McKinley, Oregon
9. Kerby Joseph, Illinois
10a. Percy Butler, Louisiana-Lafayette
10b. Bryan Cook, Cincinnati

Kickers and Punters
1. Jordan Stout, Penn State (P)
2. Jake Camarda, Georgia (P)
3. Cade York, LSU (K)
4. Matt Araiza, San Diego State (P)
5. Ryan Wright, Tulane (P)
6. Jonathan Garibay, Texas Tech (K)
7. Blake Hayes, Illinois (P)
8. Cameron Dicker, Texas (K & P)
9. Trenton Gill, NC State (P)
10a. Tommy Heatherly, Florida International (P)
10b. Andrew Mevis, Iowa State (K)
10c. Ryan Stonehouse, Colorado State (P)
10d. Gabe Brkic, Oklahoma (K)

Long-snappers
1. Cal Adomitis, Pitt
2. Daniel Cantrell, Boise State
3. Jordan Silver, Arkansas
4. Billy Taylor, Rutgers
5. Antonio Ortiz, TCU
6. Damon Johnson, USC
7. Cameron Kaye, Troy
8. Ross Reiter, Colorado State
9. Ethan Tabel, Illinois
10. Keegan Markgraf, Utah

Returners
1. Marcus Jones, Houston
2. Calvin Austin III, Memphis
3. Britain Covey, Utah
4. Velus Jones Jr., Tennessee
5. Jequez Ezzard, Sam Houston State
6. Justin Hall, Ball State
7. Jalen Virgil, Appalachian State
8. Trestan Ebner, Baylor
9. Deven Thompkins, Utah State
10. Travell Harris, Washington State

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS (BIG BOARD)

TODD McSHAY – ESPN.com

Last updated: February 8, 2022

Note: Underclassmen are marked with an asterisk, and grades are via Scouts Inc.

1. Aidan Hutchinson, DE, Michigan
6-6 | Weight: 269 pounds
Grade: 94 | Previous rank: 1

Hutchinson plays a powerful game and is truly relentless in pursuit. He also has fast eyes and locates the ball really well. I like his inside move, and his ability to line up on either side and drop in coverage will be valuable to NFL teams. The senior can stack blockers at the point of attack and has active hands. He had 14.0 sacks (third in the country), 19 tackles for loss (tied for 23rd), 75 tackles, 66 pressures (second) and two forced fumbles last season for the Wolverines. If you want to see just how dominant Hutchinson can be, go watch his tape from Michigan's late-November win over Ohio State, when he had three sacks, 14 pressures and 10 tackles.

2. Evan Neal, OT, Alabama*
Height: 6-7 **| Weight:** 350
Grade: 94 **| Previous rank:** 3

Neal has played all over the Alabama line, starting at guard as a freshman, before sliding to right tackle in 2020 and finally left tackle last season. He mirrors and slides really well, and speed rushers struggle to get around his long frame. On run blocks, Neal excels with a quick first step and excellent angles. He shows range at the second level, which makes him perfect for a zone-blocking scheme. He also delivers blocks with power, though he is still developing his balance. His awareness stands out: He can locate blitzes, twists and stunts and seal off the pass rush. Neal can get in trouble by occasionally lunging, but his skill set makes him an easy plug-and-play lineman in the NFL. He allowed one sack last season on more than 600 pass-block snaps for the Crimson Tide.

3. Kyle Hamilton, S, Notre Dame*
Height: 6-4 **| Weight:** 219
Grade: 94 **| Previous rank:** 5

Hamilton is a nightmare matchup for offenses. He has great size and closing burst while playing all over the defense. You'll see him line up deep in coverage, over the slot and even at linebacker. Hamilton can blanket tight ends, and with solid ball skills and an ability to read the QB, he will make plays. He had three interceptions in seven games this year, along with 20 tackles and five passes broken up. Against the run, Hamilton can fill the alley, but he will need to work on his angles to avoid missing tackles. Hamilton injured his knee in October and never returned.

4. Ikem Ekwonu, G/OT, NC State*
Height: 6-4 **| Weight:** 320
Grade: 93 **| Previous rank:** 21

Ekwonu is an aggressive run-blocker who uses power to knock defenders off the ball. He is at his best in a phone booth, and I'd like to see better body control when in space. In pass protection, he is tough to get around, though he tends to overset and lunge. He is potentially a better fit at guard in the NFL, and he can develop into a mauling starter there. Ekwonu plays with an edge and looks to bury defenders.

5. Ahmad "Sauce" Gardner, CB, Cincinnati*
Height: 6-2 **| Weight:** 188
Grade: 93 **| Previous rank:** 15

Receivers have a hard time getting off the line against Gardner. He is tall and long, and he smothers coverage underneath. Gardner has strong recognition ability in zone, is an adequate wrap-up tackler and flashes playmaking skill. He had three interceptions, a trio of sacks, four tackles for loss and a forced fumble in 2021. As the primary defender in coverage, he surrendered zero touchdowns and just 60 total yards over 14 games last season.

6. Nakobe Dean, ILB, Georgia*
Height: 6-0 **| Weight:** 225
Grade: 93 **| Previous rank:** 8

Dean is an off-ball linebacker who has good speed, suddenness, range and instincts. He can match up with running backs in coverage, but he also can go sideline to sideline in run defense. Dean will make a lot of plays in pursuit, closing on ball carriers and wrapping up on tackles. His improvement as a blitzer last season has been impressive, as well. He can locate gaps and close on the QB. Dean shows an excellent motor on every single down. In 2021, Dean had 73 tackles, 6.0 sacks, 10 tackles for loss, five passes broken up, three forced fumbles and two interceptions -- including a pick-six.

7. Kayvon Thibodeaux, DE, Oregon*
Height: 6-5 | Weight: 250
Grade: 93 | Previous rank: 2

Thibodeaux is a phenomenal pass-rusher with great speed and size. He gets a good push on blockers, and he shows solid initial quickness and closing speed. Thibodeaux is effective at dipping and ripping, but he also displays a strong inside move. Against the run, he locates the ball then stacks and sheds blockers, often making plays in the backfield. And he is versatile enough to convert to 3-4 outside linebacker or even occasionally kick inside to rush the passer. He could use a little more work as a hands fighter, and I'd like to see him play with a little more fire. Thibodeaux finished the season with 7.0 sacks, 12 tackles for loss, 46 pressures (tied for 11th in the nation) and two forced fumbles.

8. Derek Stingley Jr., CB, LSU*
Height: 6-1 **| Weight:** 195
Grade: 93 **| Previous rank:** 4

Stingley burst onto the scene with six interceptions as a freshman in 2019. The numbers weren't as eye-popping in 2020, and he didn't have a single interception in 10 games over the past two years, but he still has all the tools to be a truly dominant shutdown cornerback in the NFL. He is long, fast and physical, but his versatility is key. Stingley can play press-man, off-coverage, free safety and the overhang position. He is smooth with oily hips, and he has the recovery speed and instincts to make plays on the ball. A bonus: Stingley also has experience returning punts. In three games last season, he had three tackles for loss and forced a fumble, but Stingley missed most of the year following a procedure on his injured left foot.

9. Drake London, WR, USC*
Height: 6-5 **| Weight:** 210
Grade: 92 **| Previous rank:** 12

London is a big target who is versatile enough to operate out wide or in the slot. He has great contact balance, terrific body control and solid hands. London has the speed to threaten vertically, will make plays in traffic over the middle and is smooth in and out of his breaks. I really like his ability to find the soft spots in zone looks. Before he fractured his right ankle, London had 1,084 receiving yards and seven touchdowns. Six of his eight games saw him hit 130-plus receiving yards, and despite not stepping foot on the field since October and playing in only eight games, his 88 catches still ranked 15th in the nation.

10. Garrett Wilson, WR, Ohio State*
Height: 6-0 **| Weight:** 193
Grade: 92 **| Previous rank:** 9

Wilson accelerates off the line and immediately puts defensive backs on their heels. He will drop his weight at the top of his route stem, and he is extremely sudden in and out of his breaks. Wilson occasionally is a body catcher, but I've also seen him make plenty of difficult catches away from his frame and in traffic, controlling his body and adjusting to off-target throws. There is big-play ability too, thanks to elite speed and acceleration. He tracks the deep ball well, and while he isn't going to elude many defenders laterally, he turns upfield and hits the second gear so swiftly that he is trouble after the catch. Wilson had 70 catches for 1,058 yards and 12 touchdowns (tied for eighth in the FBS) last season, and he had seven total TDs over his final three games.

11. Devin Lloyd, ILB, Utah*
Height: 6-3 **| Weight:** 235
Grade: 92 **| Previous rank:** 18

Lloyd is a versatile linebacker who moves like a safety -- the position he played in high school. He has the quickness, strength and balance to slip blocks, but there is room for improvement here. Lloyd is rangy and closes well in pursuit. He will often spy quarterbacks. When turned loose as a pass-rusher, he is an effective hands fighter, and he can win against running backs when hitting an inside hole. Lloyd had 96 tackles, 8.0 sacks, 20 tackles for loss (tied for 13th in the FBS) and seven passes broken up. His four interceptions tied for 14th in the country -- and tied for first among linebackers -- while his 19.0 disrupted dropbacks were the FBS' fifth most.

12. Trent McDuffie, CB, Washington*
Height: 5-11 **| Weight:** 195
Grade: 92 **| Previous rank:** NR

McDuffie is smooth flipping his hips and shows the ability to locate the ball when he's in phase with the receiver. He displays good route recognition and discipline in zone, and while he's not a ball hawk (two interceptions over three seasons), he flashes the ability to pluck the ball out of the air. McDuffie had 26 tackles and six pass breakups in 2021.

13. Tyler Linderbaum, C, Iowa*
Height: 6-3 **| Weight:** 290
Grade: 92 **| Previous rank:** 13

Linderbaum is an effective zone blocker with great foot speed and range, and he is a solid combo blocker at the second level. At 290 pounds, he is a little on the smaller side, but he flashes good finishing power and anchors well for his size. But there is some room for improvement when it comes to staying square and in front of defenders. Linderbaum allowed pressure on just 0.9% of his 432 pass-block snaps and took zero penalties last season.

14. Travon Walker, DE, Georgia*
Height: 6-5 **| Weight:** 275
Grade: 91 **| Previous rank:** 14

Walker is a hybrid defender who plays off the edge and on the interior defensive line. He tends to be a little late off the snap as a pass-rusher and needs to diagnose a little quicker, but he has the strength to walk blockers back. And his length, ability to locate the ball and strong tackling in run defense make him tough to beat on the ground. His game is still a work in progress, but his versatility will be key to NFL success. Walker had 6.0 sacks, eight tackles for loss and 29 pressures in 14 games last season. In the national title game, he had seven pressures, a sack and two tackles for loss.

15. David Ojabo, OLB, Michigan*
Height: 6-5 | Weight: 250
Grade: 91 | Previous rank: 11

Lining up opposite Aidan Hutchinson on Michigan's defensive front, Ojabo really came on last season, posting 11.0 sacks (tied for 11th in the country), 14 tackles for loss, 39 pressures and five forced fumbles (tied for second). He has a super quick first step and excellent torso flexibility, and his dip-and-rip move is very effective. He has speed and hunts for the ball, but he can get stuck on blocks occasionally. Ojabo is sudden and instinctive, and he has very little wasted movement coming off the edge, running a tight loop. He plays with discipline against the run, doing a good job keeping the outside lanes contained.

16. Jermaine Johnson II, DE, Florida State
Height: 6-5 **| Weight:** 262
Grade: 91 **| Previous rank:** NR

Johnson had a great week at the Senior Bowl, showing off first-round traits and a high level of competitiveness. His effort is relentless. He is long and a smooth mover, and Johnson posted some big numbers at Florida State. His 12 sacks tied for seventh in the country, his 45 pressures were tied for 13th and his 23 tackles for loss were tied for fourth. He had three sacks, five tackles for loss and a forced fumble against Miami in November.

17. Malik Willis, QB, Liberty*
Height: 6-1 **| Weight:** 215
Grade: 91 **| Previous rank:** 27

Willis is terrific at extending plays and keeping his eyes downfield outside the pocket. His off-platform throws have plenty of wow factor, as he gets the ball out from various release points with velocity and hits tight windows. He has the strongest arm in the class, and the ball comes out with a flick of the wrist. An Auburn transfer, Willis threw for 2,857 yards last season with 27 passing touchdowns. On the ground, Willis had 878 yards and another 13 touchdowns. But there are some red flags on the stat sheet, too. His 12 interceptions -- including three in three different games this year -- are tied for the nation's eighth most, while his 51 sacks taken were the most.

18. Chris Olave, WR, Ohio State
Height: 6-1 **| Weight:** 188
Grade: 91 **| Previous rank:** 22

Olave's ball skills are excellent, and there is plenty of speed in his game. His route running stands out, as he explodes off the line and creates separation vertically. He always seems to have a plan, and he drops his weight quickly to accelerate out of his breaks. I'd like to see him get stronger, but Olave is an extremely talented wideout prospect. He had 65 catches for 936 yards and 13 touchdowns (tied for sixth in the country) last season. Consider this: Olave scored at least once in nine of 11 games last season, and he had four games with at least 100 receiving yards and multiple TDs.

19. Kenny Pickett, QB, Pittsburgh
Height: 6-3 **| Weight:** 220
Grade: 90 **| Previous rank:** 16

Pickett was ninth in the country in Total QBR (81.2), his 4,319 passing yards ranked sixth and his 42 passing TDs were fourth. He had seven interceptions over 13 games, and he completed 67.2% of his passes. His arm strength and pocket mobility are average areas in his game, but his toughness in the pocket, fast eyes on progressions and awareness in holding the safety stand out. He recognizes defensive disguises and is decisive. His decision-making improved after back-to-back seasons with 13-to-9 TD-INT ratios. His touch and timing on deep balls are solid, and he leads receivers into the catch. And Pickett flashes some second-reaction ability, too, scrambling when he needs to create and maneuvering around pressure.

20. Treylon Burks, WR, Arkansas*
Height: 6-3 **| Weight:** 225
Grade: 90 **| Previous rank:** 29

Burks is a savvy route runner who knows how to find the soft spots in zone coverage, is more smooth than sudden and uses his frame to generate late separation. But what puts Burks among the best wideouts in this class? His ball skills. He can pluck on the run with his oversize hands and does an outstanding job with body control to haul in deep passes or off-target throws. Burks also is effective after the catch, transitioning upfield, showing good vision and breaking tackles along the way. He had 1,104 receiving yards, and his 11 touchdown catches tied for 16th in the nation.

21. Jordan Davis, DT, Georgia
Height: 6-6 **| Weight:** 340
Grade: 90 **| Previous rank:** 26

Davis is a massive 3-4 nose tackle, but he has experience as a traditional defensive tackle in a 4-3, too. He has power and will bull-rush blockers back into their quarterback. But he is more of a disrupter than a finisher -- he had just 2.0 sacks in 15 games -- and lacks first-step quickness and redirect ability. Against the run, Davis does a great job with gap control and is a true space eater. Good luck moving him off his spot. Watching his tape, the thing that jumps out is how often he requires double-team attention.

22. Charles Cross, OT, Mississippi State
Height: 6-5 **| Weight:** 310
Grade: 90 **| Previous rank:** 10

Cross has long arms, good agility and solid quickness for a 310-pound left tackle. He is a natural knee bender with great balance and the mirror-and-slide skills to handle double moves and speed rushers. Cross is a patient pass-blocker and can pick up blitzes and other defensive line disguises. On run-blocking plays, Cross has strong angles and above-average range, but he needs to develop his lower-body strength and push. He sees more pass-blocking snaps (683 last season) than most collegiate linemen in the Bulldogs' scheme, giving evaluators plenty of tape. And despite the hefty workload, Cross allowed just one sack and five pressures last season.

23. Devonte Wyatt, DT, Georgia
Height: 6-3 **| Weight:** 315
Grade: 90 **| Previous rank:** NR

Wyatt does an excellent job tying his feet and hands together. He shows great upper-body strength, but as he's working on blockers, his feet are always moving. Another big Senior Bowl performer, Wyatt posted 2.5 sacks, 21 pressures, seven tackles for loss and a pair of forced fumbles last season.

24. Kyler Gordon, CB, Washington*
Height: 6-0 **| Weight:** 200
Grade: 90 **| Previous rank:** NR

Gordon has exceptional top-end speed, and he's an easy-mover with fluid hips and elite closing burst. He shows very good eye discipline and reaction skills in zone, but he also reads receivers' routes well in man coverage. He'll read the quarterback's eyes, jump routes and attack the ball. Gordon has played both inside and outside, and he also contributes on special teams. He had two interceptions and six pass breakups in 2021.

25. Jameson Williams, WR, Alabama*
Height: 6-2 **| Weight:** 189
Grade: 90 **| Previous rank:** 6

An Ohio State transfer, Williams is a big-play threat with elite speed and shiftiness as a ball carrier. When he plucks on the run, he accelerates away from defenders. Williams is still working through the nuances of route running, and he can occasionally be a body catcher, but he tracks and adjusts well to balls in the air. Williams had 1,572 receiving yards and 15 touchdowns last season, and he averaged 19.9 yards per catch. Those are all top-seven numbers in college football. Williams rolled up a 7-184-2 line against Georgia in the SEC championship game, but he tore an ACL in the national title game.

26. George Karlaftis, DE, Purdue*
Height: 6-4 **| Weight:** 270
Grade: 90 **| Previous rank:** 19

Karlaftis had 4.5 sacks, 11 tackles for loss, 43 pressures, two forced fumbles and a fumble return for a TD in 12 games. He wins with power, holding his own at the point of attack and showing good stopping power. Karlaftis gets a good push as a power rusher, then falls inside when he is even with the QB. He also has shown an ability to make an impact as an inside rusher.

27. Matt Corral, QB, Ole Miss*
Height: 6-0 **| Weight:** 200
Grade: 89 **| Previous rank:** 17

Corral improved as a pocket-passer and decision-maker in 2021, but those are still work-in-progress areas. He is tough and mobile in the pocket, and he has a nice quick release, getting the ball out on quick-game throws and leading receivers into extra yardage. Corral had 3,349 passing yards and 20 touchdown passes last season, and he notably had just five interceptions -- after throwing 14 of them in 2020. His run-game ability also plays a big part: He had 614 yards on the ground along with 11 scores. Corral suffered an ankle injury in the Sugar Bowl.

28. Jahan Dotson, WR, Penn State
Height: 5-11 **| Weight:** 184
Grade: 89 **| Previous rank:** 24

Dotson is a bit undersized, but his suddenness, speed and route craftiness make him a dangerous receiver. He is lightning quick in and out of his breaks, but he always seems to be in control. His tape is smooth, and his routes are sharp. Despite a smaller catch radius, his ball skills are terrific, and he will pluck the ball on the run and/or adjust to throws with excellent body control. Dotson can challenge vertically, too, but he doesn't have the size to win many 50-50 balls; if he does win, he has the field vision and wheels to produce after the catch. Dotson had 91 catches (12th in the nation) for 1,182 yards (18th) and 12 touchdowns (tied for eighth) last season, and he had at least five receptions in 11 of 12 games.

29. Andrew Booth Jr., CB, Clemson*
Height: 6-0 **| Weight:** 200
Grade: 89 **| Previous rank:** 23

I like Booth's game a lot. He does a nice job locating the ball while running in phase with receivers, and he is at his best in press coverage -- but he is very adept in off-man and zone, too. Booth has a smooth backpedal and quick feet, but he does overreact at times to a receiver's first move. The ball skills are top notch, as he had three interceptions and five passes broken up in 11 games last season. He's also a willing run defender and limits production after the catch.

30. Trevor Penning, OT, Northern Iowa*
Height: 6-7 **| Weight:** 321
Grade: 89 **| Previous rank:** 28

Penning pushes defenders off the ball with his power, and he moves well for his size. I'd like to see some improvement in his footwork, and he has some issues with mirroring, but Penning is an absolute mauler. He'd likely be a swing tackle to begin his NFL career, but his upside is immense.

31. Tariq Woolen, CB, UTSA
Height: 6-4 **| Weight:** 205
Grade: 88 **| Previous rank:** NR

Woolen has been a big riser over the past few months, and he stood out at the Senior Bowl. He has long arms and excellent speed, and he shows the burst needed to recover in time when he is caught out of phase. He's a converted receiver but isn't a ball hawk: Woolen has two interceptions and eight pass breakups over the past two seasons. He is still learning the position, but his upside is immense.

32. Bernhard Raimann, OT, Central Michigan*
Height: 6-7 **| Weight:** 305
Grade: 88 **| Previous rank:** NR

Raimann is a converted tight end who moved to left tackle in 2020. He has 18 starts there and recorded only three blown run blocks this past season on 418 such snaps. He has long arms and good quickness for his size. Raimann has a powerful upper body and shuts down pass-rushers when he gets his hands inside. He is a mauler in the run game and consistently gets into good positioning. Raimann still has some work to do with his balance at the point of attack, but he has a really good motor and plays with an edge.

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSTION

TODD McSHAY – ESPN.com

Last updated: February 8, 2022

Quarterback
1. Malik Willis, Liberty (91)
2. Kenny Pickett, Pittsburgh (90)
3. Matt Corral, Ole Miss (89)
4. Sam Howell, UNC (87)
5. Desmond Ridder, Cincinnati (86)
6. Carson Strong, Nevada (80)
7. Bailey Zappe, Western Kentucky (62)
8. Skylar Thompson, Kansas State (39)
9. Brock Purdy, Iowa State (32)
10. Chase Garbers, California (31)

Running back
1. Isaiah Spiller, Texas A&M (84)
2. Kenneth Walker III, Michigan State (82)
3. Breece Hall, Iowa State (81)
4. James Cook, Georgia (68)
5. Kyren Williams, Notre Dame (67)
6. Jerome Ford, Cincinnati (66)
7. Dameon Pierce, Florida (62)
8. Brian Robinson Jr., Alabama (61)
9. Abram Smith, Baylor (59)
10. Tyler Badie, Missouri (58)

Wide receiver
1. Drake London, USC (92)
2. Garrett Wilson, Ohio State (92)
3. Chris Olave, Ohio State (91)
4. Treylon Burks, Arkansas (90)
5. Jameson Williams, Alabama (90)
6. Jahan Dotson, Penn State (89)
7. Christian Watson, North Dakota State (81)
8. John Metchie III, Alabama (80)
9. Jalen Tolbert, South Alabama (78)
10. Calvin Austin III, Memphis (77)

Tight end
1. Trey McBride, Colorado State (88)
2. Isaiah Likely, Coastal Carolina (86)
3. Greg Dulcich, UCLA (81)
4. Jalen Wydermyer, Texas A&M (77)
5. Jeremy Ruckert, Ohio State (74)
6. Cole Turner, Nevada (69)
7. Cade Otton, Washington (67)
8. Charlie Kolar, Iowa State (66)
9. James Mitchell, Virginia Tech (61)
10. Derrick Deese Jr., San Jose State (60)

Fullback
1. Connor Heyward, Michigan State (46)
2. Jeremiah Hall, Oklahoma (44)

Offensive tackle
1. Evan Neal, Alabama (94)
2. Ikem Ekwonu, NC State (93)
3. Charles Cross, Mississippi State (90)
4. Trevor Penning, Northern Iowa (89)
5. Bernhard Raimann, Central Michigan (88)
6. Daniel Faalele, Minnesota (84)
7. Nicholas Petit-Frere, Ohio State (76)
8. Darian Kinnard, Kentucky (75)
9. Abraham Lucas, Washington State (72)
10. Matt Waletzko, North Dakota (65)

Guard
1. Zion Johnson, Boston College (88)
2. Kenyon Green, Texas A&M (87)
3. Cole Strange, Chattanooga (77)
4. Sean Rhyan, UCLA (71)
5. Justin Shaffer, Georgia (68)
6. Dylan Parham, Memphis (66)
7. Jamaree Salyer, Georgia (64)
8. Joshua Ezeudu, UNC (63)
9. Andrew Stueber, Michigan (61)
10. Chris Paul, Tulsa (60)

Center
1. Tyler Linderbaum, Iowa (92)
2. Dohnovan West, Arizona State (70)
3. Luke Fortner, Kentucky (55)
4. Grant Gibson, NC State (52)
5. Cameron Jurgens, Nebraska (50)
6. Alec Lindstrom, Boston College (47)
7. Nick Ford, Utah (46)
8. Michael Maietti, Missouri (43)
9. Doug Kramer, Illinois (41)
10. Brock Hoffman, Virginia Tech (40)

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSTION

TODD McSHAY – ESPN.com

Defensive end
1. Aidan Hutchinson, Michigan (94)
2. Kayvon Thibodeaux, Oregon (93)
3. Travon Walker, Georgia (91)
4. Jermaine Johnson II, Florida State (91)
5. George Karlaftis, Purdue (90)
6. Arnold Ebiketie, Penn State (88)
7. Logan Hall, Houston (87)
8. Myjai Sanders, Cincinnati (86)
9. DeMarvin Leal, Texas A&M (86)
10. Cameron Thomas, San Diego State (85)

Outside linebacker
1. David Ojabo, Michigan (91)
2. Boye Mafe, Minnesota (87)
3. Kingsley Enagbare, South Carolina (86)
4. DeAngelo Malone, Western Kentucky (85)
5. Drake Jackson, USC (79)
6. Dominique Robinson, Miami-OH (77)
7. Amare Barno, Virginia Tech (73)
8. Nik Bonitto, Oklahoma (68)
9. Jesse Luketa, Penn State (67)
10. Sam Williams, Ole Miss (63)

Defensive tackle
1. Jordan Davis, Georgia (90)
2. Devonte Wyatt, Georgia (90)
3. Perrion Winfrey, Oklahoma (87)
4. Phidarian Mathis, Alabama (86)
5. Neil Farrell Jr., LSU (85)
6. Travis Jones, UConn (73)
7. Eric Johnson, Missouri State (72)
8. Haskell Garrett, Ohio State (71)
9. Zachary Carter, Florida (69)
10. John Ridgeway, Arkansas (64)

Inside linebacker
1. Nakobe Dean, Georgia (93)
2. Devin Lloyd, Utah (92)
3. Christian Harris, Alabama (88)
4. Channing Tindall, Georgia (83)
5. Chad Muma, Wyoming (80)
6. Quay Walker, Georgia (79)
7. Leo Chenal, Wisconsin (78)
8. Troy Andersen, Montana State (76)
9. Damone Clark, LSU (74)
10. Brandon Smith, Penn State (71)

Cornerback
1. Ahmad "Sauce" Gardner, Cincinnati (93)
2. Derek Stingley Jr., LSU (93)
3. Trent McDuffie, Washington (92)
4. Kyler Gordon, Washington (90)
5. Andrew Booth Jr., Clemson (89)
6. Tariq Woolen, UTSA (88)
7. Roger McCreary, Auburn (87)
8. Kaiir Elam, Florida (86)
9. Martin Emerson, Mississippi State (84)
10. Coby Bryant, Cincinnati (82)

Safety

1. Kyle Hamilton, Notre Dame (94)
2. Daxton Hill, Michigan (87)
3. Jalen Pitre, Baylor (86)
4. Lewis Cine, Georgia (80)
5. Kerby Joseph, Illinois (79)
6. Jaquan Brisker, Penn State (77)
7. Bryan Cook, Cincinnati (70)
8. JoJo Domann, Nebraska (69)
9. Tariq Carpenter, Georgia Tech (68)
10. Alontae Taylor, Tennessee (65)

Kicker

1. Cameron Dicker, Texas (46)
2. Andrew Mevis, Iowa State (31)

Punter

1. Jordan Stout, Penn State (45)
2. Jake Camarda, Georgia (44)

Long-snapper

1. Cal Adomitis, Pittsburgh (30)
2. Jordan Silver, Arkansas (30)

2021 PLAYER RANKINGS BY TIER

TODD McSHAY – ESPN.com

Last updated: March 31, 2022

Tier 1: No prospects

Grades of 95 or higher. Elite prospects. Should be immediate NFL starters and project as perennial All-Pro players. Worthy of a top-five pick most years. I had just one player in this tier in 2021.

McShay: It's not super uncommon for a prospect-less top tier, and it's never a crowded group. Last year, it was just quarterback Trevor Lawrence. The year before, it was just edge rusher Chase Young. The last time we had zero prospects break the 95-grade mark was 2016, when edge rusher Joey Bosa and offensive tackle Laremy Tunsil topped our list with matching 94s. But this speaks to the 2022 class, too. The strength of this group is in its depth, not its elite upper tier.

Steve Muench (Scouts Inc.): OK, but a question for you ... if Notre Dame safety Kyle Hamilton had a better workout at the combine, would he be here? Say he runs a sub-4.5 in the 40-yard dash, a sub-6.85 three-cone drill and/or his arms are roughly an inch longer, I think he could jump from 93 to 95. He's obviously an outstanding prospect, but it seems like the testing is holding him back a bit. His ranking shows how tough it is to crack that top tier.

McShay: Before the combine, I had him at 94 and dropped him slightly. That was based on an expectation he'd run a sub-4.5 time. But I talked to a scout who had his pro-day 40 time at 4.7, which is obviously even worse than the already-middling 4.59 we saw at the combine. I don't see it on tape, though, and think he plays much faster than that. Tier 1 wouldn't have been out of the question if he had dominated in the pre-draft process, but I still think I'd have him as one of the best Tier 2 guys.

Muench: And Michigan defensive end Aidan Hutchinson came closest to making this elite club. Was there one thing you could point to that caused him to just miss the cut?

McShay: Yeah, he's the top prospect in the class, and we're splitting hairs here. But when we're comparing him to pass-rushers who made Tier 1 in past years, I think Hutchinson has a little less length and bend. Think about Young, Nick Bosa and Myles Garrett -- all of whom had 95 grades for me -- and the way they can operate while keeping blockers away from their bodies. I think that's probably the biggest difference. But again, this is splitting hairs. Hutchinson is an excellent edge rusher and likely the No. 1 pick.

Tier 2: Nine prospects

Grades between 92 and 94. A notch below the elite class but still considered a plug-and-play NFL starter with high-level potential. Worthy of a top-15 pick most years. I had nine players in this tier in 2021.

1. Aidan Hutchinson, DE, Michigan (94)
2. Ikem Ekwonu, OT, NC State (93)
3. Evan Neal, OT, Alabama (93)
4. Kyle Hamilton, S, Notre Dame (93)
5. Ahmad Gardner, CB, Cincinnati (93)
6. Garrett Wilson, WR, Ohio State (92)
7. Kayvon Thibodeaux, DE, Oregon (92)
8. Travon Walker, DE, Georgia (92)
9. Drake London, WR, USC (92)

Muench: Three of the nine players in this group are edge rushers, and that should come as no surprise. But I can't get on board with giving Ekwonu and Neal the same grades we gave offensive tackles Rashawn Slater and Penei Sewell last year (93). That is, unless we are saying that we were too low on Slater and Sewell when they came out last April. Ekwonu and Neal have great potential, but I don't think they are as polished.

McShay: Yeah, I honestly cringed a little bit when comparing Ekwonu and Neal to those two tackles from the 2021 class. Maybe we were just a notch too low on them last spring. But Ekwonu and Neal are true 93s, and I don't want to ding them just based on that. Ranking the four linemen within the 93 grade -- based on their pre-draft evaluations -- I would have had the order as Sewell, Slater, Ekwonu and then Neal.

Muench: The omission of Georgia defensive tackle Jordan Davis also stands out. I get that it's tricky. This tier is reserved for players worthy of a top-15 pick each year, and he's the 16th prospect on our board right now. He's a nose tackle and better run defender than pass-rusher. Teams don't generally draft a player that high. But Tampa Bay took Vita Vea at No. 12 in 2018, and Baltimore took Haloti Ngata at the same spot in 2006, and those picks worked out all right. Davis has a chance to be that kind of player in my eyes.

McShay: I'll also mention the receivers here. There's a pretty strong consensus that Wilson or London will end up the first wideout off the board at the end of April, and both deserve to be in this tier. They are very different types of receivers, so who is actually the top WR might come down to team preference. But this is also a sign of what this receiver class is. Four pass-catchers slid into Tier 2 last year, and three were there in 2020. Just two this time around. I love this receiver class, but it's because of the depth and variety. Teams will have a lot of options later in Round 1 and on Day 2, and they will be able to draft pass-catchers based on exactly what they're looking for on offense.

Tier 3: 14 prospects

Grades between 90 and 91. Good NFL starters and are considered strong values in the bottom half of Round 1 in any given draft class. I had 15 players in this tier in 2021.

10. Jermaine Johnson II, DE, Florida State (91)
11. Derek Stingley Jr., CB, LSU (91)
12. Nakobe Dean, ILB, Georgia (91)
13. Devin Lloyd, ILB, Utah (91)
14. Trent McDuffie, CB, Washington (90)
15. Charles Cross, OT, Mississippi State (90)
16. Jordan Davis, DT, Georgia (90)
17. Chris Olave, WR, Ohio State (90)
18. Tyler Linderbaum, C, Iowa (90)
19. Jameson Williams, WR, Alabama (90)
20. Devonte Wyatt, DT, Georgia (90)
21. Malik Willis, QB, Liberty (90)
22. Kenny Pickett, QB, Pittsburgh (90)
23. Daxton Hill, S, Michigan (90)

McShay: Here come the quarterbacks. Willis and Pickett each have a 90 grade, and I'm not expecting changes there. Most teams have those two at the top of their boards, and the majority of the rest have neither lower than QB3. We all know this isn't the best QB class, but consider this: Four 2021 signal-callers had better grades than our best 2022 guys, and three of them were in higher tiers.

Muench: No arguments here. If Willis and Pickett were in the 2021 class, I would have felt comfortable ranking them Nos. 6 and 7, slightly behind Mac Jones. It's just that type of year. The real question isn't about rankings or grades, though. It's how early they will get drafted. Does a team fall in love with one and reach? That could make for draft-night intrigue.

McShay: One guy who was tough to slot is Stingley. He might be the most interesting player on the entire board. We have a 91 grade on him right now, but teams have a lot of variance in how they stack him up with other first-round prospects. Everyone is working with the same information, but evaluators have different levels of risk tolerance. Are you getting the player we saw in 2019? If we were judging on that year, he'd probably have a 94 or even 95 grade, potentially cracking Tier 1. Stingley certainly has the talent to be ranked in the top three or four in this class. But what if you're drafting the

player we've seen for the past two years -- the one who has battled injuries and played at an inconsistent level? Will teams give up a surefire double with another one of these Tier 3 prospects to take on home run potential with strikeout risk? He's a really difficult evaluation.

Muench: As far as corners are concerned, Gardner has separated himself and deserves to be a tier ahead. Now you weigh Stingley's risk against the potential reward. I'm not going to rehash all the pros and cons of his up-and-down college career. But shutdown corners are tough to find, and he has the ability to develop into one of the best in the league -- not just this class. I get minimizing risk and the double vs. home run/strikeout analogy, but you can't play it safe all the time. We've seen Stingley's ceiling, and it's high.

McShay: I have to shout out Dean here, too. I love his tape. I have a feeling he won't be drafted in this range, and I'm still OK with my evaluation. He has star potential. I'll die on Nakobe Dean Hill.

Muench: Yes, I personally think Lloyd should be higher, but they both deserve to be in this group, and Dean is so much fun to watch. Teams should be thrilled to get either one of them.

Tier 4: 22 prospects

Grades between 85 and 89. Good future NFL starters. Second-round value. I had 20 players in this tier in 2021.

24. George Karlaftis, DE, Purdue (89)
25. Trevor Penning, OT, Northern Iowa (89)
26. Treylon Burks, WR, Arkansas (89)
27. Kenyon Green, G, Texas A&M (89)
28. Jahan Dotson, WR, Penn State (89)
29. Andrew Booth Jr., CB, Clemson (89)
30. David Ojabo, OLB, Michigan (88)
31. Kyler Gordon, CB, Washington (88)
32. Boye Mafe, OLB, Minnesota (88)
33. Zion Johnson, G, Boston College (88)
34. Matt Corral, QB, Mississippi (88)
35. Quay Walker, ILB, Georgia (87)
36. Desmond Ridder, QB, Cincinnati (87)
37. Christian Harris, ILB, Alabama (86)
38. Arnold Ebiketie, DE, Penn State (86)
39. Travis Jones, DT, Connecticut (86)
40. Logan Hall, DE, Houston (86)
41. Jalen Pitre, S, Baylor (86)
42. Skyy Moore, WR, Western Michigan (85)
43. Bernhard Raimann, OT, Central Michigan (85)
44. Kenneth Walker III, RB, Michigan State (85)
45. Christian Watson, WR, North Dakota State (85)

Muench: There's a lot to talk about when it comes to the two offensive tackles in this group. I recently told you that I get nervous when an offensive lineman is repeatedly referred to as a "mauler." Penning is nasty with excellent power. Sure, two good traits to have as an offensive lineman, but they can be overrated. You have to pass block to succeed in the NFL, and I think Penning will struggle in that area early in his career. Raimann is an even greater project. Both have the talent to get there. But I'd feel more comfortable with Penning at the bottom of this tier and Raimann in Tier 5.

McShay: Ojabo is the one who pops here for me. Before the Achilles injury at his pro day, he was a clear Tier 3 guy -- and high in it. I had a 90 grade on him two weeks ago, and he was a top-20 prospect. Even then, though, he was probably a pass-rush specialist as a rookie before developing into a more consistent role. Now you aren't even getting that. You have to really believe in the upside to use a first-rounder on him.

Muench: You know I'm not going to pass up on a chance to talk about my guy Pitre, who has an 86 grade for us. He is undersized with shorter arms and didn't run at the combine, so there are some concerns. But the tape is fantastic, and I thought he had a good Senior Bowl week.

McShay: Yeah, he's one of a few super-talented prospects in this range with something missing. I see a clear separation between the top and bottom of this tier. You have plug-and-play guys in the 89-grade range. Booth is maybe the exception, but he's still at worst a No. 3 corner in Year 1. After that, though, you're projecting a bit. Pitre is undersized. Ebiketie doesn't have the measurables. Jones is still developing. Hall doesn't have a locked-in position. Walker struggles in pass-blocking. They are all excellent players, and I love all their games. In fact, I see this tier as the strength of the class. But below that 89 mark, these aren't guys you can pop onto the top of the depth chart when they walk in the door.

Tier 5: 21 prospects

Grades between 80 and 84. Future solid to good NFL starters but might need to serve in substitution package/situational roles early in career. Mid- to late-second-round value. I had 17 players in this tier in 2021.

46. Breece Hall, RB, Iowa State (84)
47. Kaiir Elam, CB, Florida (84)
48. Leo Chenal, ILB, Wisconsin (84)
49. Phidarian Mathis, DT, Alabama (84)
50. Sam Howell, QB, North Carolina (84)
51. Perrion Winfrey, DT, Oklahoma (84)
52. Lewis Cine, S, Georgia (84)
53. Nick Cross, S, Maryland (83)
54. Roger McCreary, CB, Auburn (83)
55. Abraham Lucas, OT, Washington State (83)
56. Nik Bonitto, OLB, Oklahoma (83)
57. George Pickens, WR, Georgia (83)
58. Tyler Smith, OT, Tulsa (82)
59. Trey McBride, TE, Colorado State (82)
60. Daniel Faalele, OT, Minnesota (82)
61. Drake Jackson, OLB, USC (81)
62. DeMarvin Leal, DE, Texas A&M (81)
63. John Metchie III, WR, Alabama (81)
64. DeAngelo Malone, OLB, Western Kentucky (80)
65. Chad Muma, ILB, Wyoming (80)
66. Jaquan Brisker, S, Penn State (80)

McShay: The running backs in this class are interesting. I'm not as enamored by them as others are, but the race for RB1 will be something to watch. I had Walker (Tier 4) ranked higher based on tape, and I actually moved Hall up a little following the combine. He had a great workout, and he's also the more complete back at this point and has a lot of experience. Walker remains out front, though, because he is more explosive and will likely become just as effective as Hall as a pass-catcher. I'm thinking both guys come off the board early on Day 2.

Muench: As you are with the running backs, I'm not as high on this offensive tackle class as others might be. But I like Lucas and think he's going to be a Day 2 steal. Give me the seasoned four-year starter from a Power 5 conference who had an outstanding workout at the combine. If minimizing risk is so important, then why isn't Lucas ranked ahead of the two tackles in Tier 4?

McShay: This is teams' last shot at finding a true plug-and-play tackle. I think Lucas probably is someone you could insert into a starting lineup as a rookie. And maybe you're right, in terms of him being a safe prospect. I do think Penning is a step above; he's longer and faster, and while he has some work to do as a pass-blocker, he's in a different class. I like the

tape for Raimann a bit more than Lucas, but Lucas had an incredible workout, and there's an argument for those two to be closer. Another step below, Smith and Faalele are developing but will get there. But after that, you're gambling on finding a starter-level tackle at the next level. And likewise, this is probably the last chance to get a quarterback with any real chance to be a long-term NFL starter under center.

Tier 6: 40 prospects

Grades between 70 and 79. Project as future solid starters but need time to develop, have limited upside or come with red flags. Third-round value. I had 50 players in this tier in 2021.

67. Damone Clark, ILB, LSU (79)
68. Dylan Parham, G, Memphis (79)
69. Kerby Joseph, S, Illinois (79)
70. Troy Andersen, ILB, Montana State (79)
71. Cameron Thomas, DE, San Diego State (79)
72. Wan'Dale Robinson, WR, Kentucky (79)
73. Josh Paschal, DE, Kentucky (78)
74. Alec Pierce, WR, Cincinnati (78)
75. Tariq Woolen, CB, UTSA (78)
76. Myjai Sanders, DE, Cincinnati (77)
77. Channing Tindall, ILB, Georgia (77)
78. Cole Strange, G, Chattanooga (77)
79. Greg Dulcich, TE, UCLA (77)
80. Calvin Austin III, WR, Memphis (77)
81. Coby Bryant, CB, Cincinnati (77)
82. Nicholas Petit-Frere, OT, Ohio State (76)
83. Jalen Tolbert, WR, South Alabama (76)
84. Velus Jones Jr., WR, Tennessee (75)
85. Amare Barno, OLB, Virginia Tech (75)
86. JT Woods, S, Baylor (74)
87. James Cook, RB, Georgia (74)
88. Isaiah Likely, TE, Coastal Carolina (74)
89. Khalil Shakir, WR, Boise State (74)
90. Zyon McCollum, CB, Sam Houston (73)
91. Cameron Jurgens, C, Nebraska (73)
92. JoJo Domann, S, Nebraska (73)
93. Carson Strong, QB, Nevada (73)
94. Sean Rhyan, G, UCLA (73)
95. Kingsley Enagbare, OLB, South Carolina (73)
96. Luke Goedeke, OT, Central Michigan (72)
97. Brandon Smith, ILB, Penn State (72)
98. Kellen Diesch, OT, Arizona State (71)
99. Dai'Jean Dixon, WR, Nicholls State (71)
100. Josh Jobe, CB, Alabama (71)
101. Marcus Jones, CB, Houston (70)
102. Dohnovan West, C, Arizona State (70)
103. Jelani Woods, TE, Virginia (70)
104. Bryan Cook, S, Cincinnati (70)
105. Luke Fortner, C, Kentucky (70)
106. Brian Asamoah, ILB, Oklahoma (70)

Muench: I know we went back and forth on Muma (Tier 5) and Andersen. I like them both, and it's close. Muma has the edge when it comes to the tape, but Andersen has the higher ceiling.

McShay: Yeah, you talked me into Muma over Andersen. I love Andersen's game. He wowed me at the Senior Bowl and combine. But Muma's tape is impressive.

Muench: There are a ton of potential steals here, and I like this inside linebacker class. Clark, Andersen and Tindall all have a chance to be quality starters early in their careers. Then Diesch is another player to keep an eye on. Offensive linemen feel the same way about arm length as quarterbacks feel about hand spans: If they don't check that box, they don't want to hear about it. Diesch has short arms, and defenders are able to get into his frame on tape, but he is fundamentally sound and plays with balance. He has a chance to overcome that lack of length.

McShay: While we're at it, I have a few more sleepers. Joseph plays like he's 225 pounds at 203 and has good ball skills. Robinson is arguably the most underrated player in the entire class, and you just want to get him the ball. Pierce is one of the most reliable pass-catchers available. Woolen has early-pick traits but needs seasoning, and Sanders has loads of upside. Oh, and Jurgens will be one to watch. I originally had him in Tier 5.

Muench: I know that you were higher on him, and I convinced you to drop him into this range. He's a talented player and a top-100 prospect, but the tape is a little underwhelming. One guy we agree on is Barno. His frame and production are concerning, but the talent and upside are too good to ignore at this point.

McShay: I'll stay in Virginia for one last shoutout. Woods had a great pro day and could end up a really good starter. He has 6-foot-7 size and 4.61 speed.

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS

ESPN SCOUTS INC. – ESPN.com

NAME	POS	HT	WT	SCHOOL	GRADE	OVR RANK
Aidan Hutchinson	DE	6'6⅝"	260	Michigan	**94**	1
Ikem Ekwonu*	OT	6'4"	310	NC State	**93**	2
Evan Neal*	OT	6'7½"	337	Alabama	**93**	3
Kyle Hamilton*	S	6'4⅛"	220	Notre Dame	**93**	4
Ahmad Gardner*	CB	6'2¾"	190	Cincinnati	**93**	5
Garrett Wilson*	WR	5'11¾"	183	Ohio State	**92**	6
Kayvon Thibodeaux*	DE	6'4"	254	Oregon	**92**	7
Travon Walker*	DE	6'5"	272	Georgia	**92**	8
Drake London*	WR	6'3⅞"	219	USC	**92**	9
Jermaine Johnson II	DE	6'4⅝"	254	Florida State	**91**	10
Derek Stingley Jr.*	CB	6'0¼"	190	LSU	**91**	11
Nakobe Dean*	ILB	5'11¼"	229	Georgia	**91**	12
Devin Lloyd*	ILB	6'2¾"	237	Utah	**91**	13
Trent McDuffie*	CB	5'10¾"	193	Washington	**90**	14
Charles Cross*	OT	6'4¾"	307	Mississippi State	**90**	15
Jordan Davis	DT	6'6⅜"	341	Georgia	**90**	16
Chris Olave	WR	6'0⅜"	187	Ohio State	**90**	17
Tyler Linderbaum*	C	6'2⅛"	296	Iowa	**90**	18
Jameson Williams*	WR	6'1½"	179	Alabama	**90**	19
Devonte Wyatt	DT	6'2⅞"	304	Georgia	**90**	20
Malik Willis*	QB	6'0½"	219	Liberty	**90**	21
Kenny Pickett	QB	6'3¼"	217	Pittsburgh	**90**	22
Daxton Hill*	S	6'0¼"	191	Michigan	**90**	23
George Karlaftis*	DE	6'3¾"	266	Purdue	**89**	24
Trevor Penning*	OT	6'7⅛"	325	Northern Iowa	**89**	25
Treylon Burks*	WR	6'2"	225	Arkansas	**89**	26
Kenyon Green*	OG	6'3⅞"	323	Texas A&M	**89**	27
Jahan Dotson	WR	5'10⅝"	178	Penn State	**89**	28
Andrew Booth Jr.*	CB	6'0¼"	194	Clemson	**89**	29
David Ojabo*	OLB	6'4"	250	Michigan	**88**	30

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS

ESPN SCOUTS INC. – ESPN.com

NAME	POS	HT	WT	SCHOOL	GRADE	OVR RANK
Kyler Gordon*	CB	5'11½"	194	Washington	**88**	31
Boye Mafe	OLB	6'3¾"	261	Minnesota	**88**	32
Zion Johnson	OG	6'2⅝"	312	Boston College	**88**	33
Matt Corral*	QB	6'1⅝"	212	Ole Miss	**88**	34
Quay Walker	ILB	6'3¾"	241	Georgia	**87**	35
Desmond Ridder	QB	6'3⅜"	211	Cincinnati	**87**	36
Christian Harris*	ILB	6'0½"	226	Alabama	**86**	37
Arnold Ebiketie	DE	6'2⅜"	250	Penn State	**86**	38
Travis Jones*	DT	6'4⅜"	325	UConn	**86**	39
Logan Hall*	DE	6'6⅛"	283	Houston	**86**	40
Jalen Pitre	S	5'11"	198	Baylor	**86**	41
Skyy Moore*	WR	5'9⅝"	195	Western Michigan	**85**	42
Bernhard Raimann*	OT	6'6⅛"	303	Central Michigan	**85**	43
Kenneth Walker III*	RB	5'9¼"	211	Michigan State	**85**	44
Christian Watson	WR	6'4⅛"	208	North Dakota State	**85**	45
Breece Hall*	RB	5'11¼"	217	Iowa State	**84**	46
Kaiir Elam*	CB	6'1½"	191	Florida	**84**	47
Leo Chenal*	ILB	6'2⅝"	250	Wisconsin	**84**	48
Phidarian Mathis	DT	6'4¼"	310	Alabama	**84**	49
Sam Howell*	QB	6'0⅝"	218	North Carolina	**84**	50
Perrion Winfrey	DT	6'3⅝"	290	Oklahoma	**84**	51
Lewis Cine*	S	6'2¼"	199	Georgia	**84**	52
Nick Cross*	S	6'0⅛"	212	Maryland	**83**	53
Roger McCreary	CB	5'11⅜"	190	Auburn	**83**	54
Abraham Lucas	OT	6'6⅜"	315	Washington State	**83**	55
Nik Bonitto*	OLB	6'3"	248	Oklahoma	**83**	56
George Pickens*	WR	6'3¼"	195	Georgia	**83**	57
Tyler Smith*	OT	6'4⅝"	324	Tulsa	**82**	58
Trey McBride	TE	6'3⅝"	246	Colorado State	**82**	59
Daniel Faalele	OT	6'8"	384	Minnesota	**82**	60

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS

ESPN SCOUTS INC. – ESPN.com

NAME	POS	HT	WT	SCHOOL	GRADE	OVR RANK
Drake Jackson*	OLB	6'2⅝"	254	USC	**81**	61
DeMarvin Leal*	DE	6'3⅞"	283	Texas A&M	**81**	62
John Metchie III*	WR	5'11¼"	187	Alabama	**81**	63
DeAngelo Malone	OLB	6'3¼"	243	Western Kentucky	**80**	64
Chad Muma*	ILB	6'2¾"	239	Wyoming	**80**	65
Jaquan Brisker	S	6'1⅜"	199	Penn State	**80**	66
Damone Clark	ILB	6'2½"	239	LSU	**79**	67
Dylan Parham	OG	6'2⅝"	311	Memphis	**79**	68
Kerby Joseph*	S	6'1"	203	Illinois	**79**	69
Troy Andersen	ILB	6'3½"	243	Montana State	**79**	70
Cameron Thomas*	DE	6'4⅛"	267	San Diego State	**79**	71
Wan'Dale Robinson*	WR	5'8"	178	Kentucky	**79**	72
Josh Paschal	DE	6'2⅝"	268	Kentucky	**78**	73
Alec Pierce	WR	6'3⅛"	211	Cincinnati	**78**	74
Tariq Woolen	CB	6'4⅛"	205	UTSA	**78**	75
Myjai Sanders	DE	6'5¼"	228	Cincinnati	**77**	76
Channing Tindall	ILB	6'1⅞"	230	Georgia	**77**	77
Cole Strange	OG	6'4⅞"	307	Chattanooga	**77**	78
Greg Dulcich*	TE	6'4"	243	UCLA	**77**	79
Calvin Austin III	WR	5'7¾"	170	Memphis	**77**	80
Coby Bryant	CB	6'1⅜"	193	Cincinnati	**77**	81
Nicholas Petit-Frere*	OT	6'5⅛"	316	Ohio State	**76**	82
Jalen Tolbert*	WR	6'1⅛"	194	South Alabama	**76**	83
Velus Jones Jr.	WR	5'11¾"	204	Tennessee	**75**	84
Amare Barno*	OLB	6'4⅝"	246	Virginia Tech	**75**	85
JT Woods	S	6'2⅛"	195	Baylor	**74**	86
James Cook	RB	5'11"	199	Georgia	**74**	87
Isaiah Likely	TE	6'4½"	245	Coastal Carolina	**74**	88
Khalil Shakir	WR	5'11⅞"	196	Boise State	**74**	89
Zyon McCollum	CB	6'2⅛"	199	Sam Houston	**73**	90

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS

ESPN SCOUTS INC. – ESPN.com

NAME	POS	HT	WT	SCHOOL	GRADE	OVR RANK
Cameron Jurgens*	C	6'2⅞"	303	Nebraska	**73**	91
JoJo Domann	S	6'1¼"	228	Nebraska	**73**	92
Carson Strong*	QB	6'3⅜"	226	Nevada	**73**	93
Sean Rhyan*	OG	6'4⅝"	321	UCLA	**73**	94
Kingsley Enagbare	OLB	6'3¾"	258	South Carolina	**73**	95
Luke Goedeke*	OT	6'5"	312	Central Michigan	**72**	96
Brandon Smith*	ILB	6'3½"	250	Penn State	**72**	97
Kellen Diesch	OT	6'7⅛"	301	Arizona State	**71**	98
Dai'Jean Dixon	WR	6'2⅝"	205	Nicholls	**71**	99
Josh Jobe	CB	5'11½"	182	Alabama	**71**	100
Marcus Jones	CB	5'8"	174	Houston	**70**	101
Dohnovan West*	C	6'3¼"	296	Arizona State	**70**	102
Jelani Woods*	TE	6'7⅛"	253	Virginia	**70**	103
Bryan Cook	S	6'0¾"	206	Cincinnati	**70**	104
Luke Fortner	C	6'4⅛"	307	Kentucky	**70**	105
Brian Asamoah*	ILB	6'0¼"	226	Oklahoma	**70**	106
Darian Kinnard	OG	6'5⅜"	322	Kentucky	**70**	107
Isaiah Spiller*	RB	6'0⅜"	217	Texas A&M	**69**	108
Cole Turner	TE	6'6½"	249	Nevada	**69**	109
Matthew Butler	DT	6'3⅞"	297	Tennessee	**69**	110
Martin Emerson*	CB	6'1⅝"	201	Mississippi State	**69**	111
Justyn Ross*	WR	6'3⅝"	205	Clemson	**69**	112
Jeremy Ruckert	TE	6'5½"	252	Ohio State	**68**	113
Neil Farrell Jr.	DT	6'4⅛"	330	LSU	**68**	114
Verone McKinley III*	S	5'10"	198	Oregon	**68**	115
Damarri Mathis	CB	5'11"	196	Pittsburgh	**68**	116
David Bell*	WR	6'0⅞"	212	Purdue	**68**	117
Pierre Strong Jr.*	RB	5'11⅜"	207	South Dakota State	**67**	118
Micheal Clemons	DE	6'5¼"	263	Texas A&M	**67**	119
Alontae Taylor	S	6'0⅛"	199	Tennessee	**67**	120

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS

ESPN SCOUTS INC. – ESPN.com

NAME	POS	HT	WT	SCHOOL	GRADE	OVR RANK
Romeo Doubs	WR	6'1⅞"	201	Nevada	**67**	121
Marquis Hayes	OG	6'4⅞"	318	Oklahoma	**66**	122
Cade Otton*	TE	6'5"	247	Washington	**66**	123
Aaron Hansford	ILB	6'2¼"	239	Texas A&M	**66**	124
Matt Waletzko	OT	6'7⅝"	312	North Dakota	**66**	125
Dominique Robinson	OLB	6'4⅞"	253	Miami (OH)	**65**	126
Daniel Bellinger	TE	6'4⅞"	253	San Diego State	**65**	127
Derion Kendrick	CB	5'11⅞"	194	Georgia	**65**	128
Dameon Pierce	RB	5'9⅝"	218	Florida	**64**	129
Zachary Carter	DT	6'4¼"	282	Florida	**64**	130
Logan Bruss	OG	6'5"	309	Wisconsin	**64**	131
Thayer Munford	OT	6'5¾"	328	Ohio State	**64**	132
Bo Melton	WR	5'11"	189	Rutgers	**64**	133
Kyren Williams*	RB	5'9¼"	194	Notre Dame	**63**	134
Joshua Ezeudu*	OG	6'4¼"	308	North Carolina	**63**	135
Sam Williams	OLB	6'3⅝"	261	Ole Miss	**63**	136
Max Mitchell*	OT	6'6¼"	307	Louisiana	**63**	137
Kyle Philips*	WR	5'11¼"	189	UCLA	**63**	138
Bailey Zappe	QB	6'0½"	215	Western Kentucky	**62**	139
John Ridgeway	DT	6'5⅛"	321	Arkansas	**62**	140
Charlie Kolar	TE	6'6½"	252	Iowa State	**62**	141
Chris Paul	OG	6'3⅞"	323	Tulsa	**62**	142
Darrian Beavers	ILB	6'3¾"	237	Cincinnati	**62**	143
Rasheed Walker*	OT	6'5⅝"	313	Penn State	**62**	144
Cordale Flott*	CB	6'0½"	175	LSU	**62**	145
Braylon Sanders	WR	6'0⅛"	194	Ole Miss	**62**	146
Brian Robinson Jr.	RB	6'1⅝"	225	Alabama	**61**	147
Otito Ogbonnia	DT	6'3¾"	324	UCLA	**61**	148
Jake Ferguson	TE	6'4⅞"	250	Wisconsin	**61**	149
Ed Ingram	OG	6'3¼"	307	LSU	**61**	150

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS

ESPN SCOUTS INC. – ESPN.com

Grading Scale

90-100 Rare Prospect
Player demonstrates rare abilities and can create mismatches that have an obvious impact on the game. Is a premier college player that has all the skill to take over a game and play at a championship level. He rates in the top 5 players in the nation at his position and is considered a first round draft prospect.

80-89 Outstanding Prospect
Player has abilities to create mismatches versus most opponents in the NFL. A feature player that has an impact on the outcome of the game. Cannot be shut down by a single player and plays on a consistent level week in and week out. He rates in the top 10 at his position and is considered a second round draft prospect.

70-79 Solid Prospect
Still a standout player at the college level that is close to being an elite player. He has no glaring weaknesses and will usually win his individual matchups, but does not dominate in every game, especially when matched up against the top players in the country. He will usually rate in the top third of players at his position and is considered a third round draft prospect.

60-69 Good Prospect
This player is an good starter that will give a solid effort week in and week out, but he is overmatched versus the better players in the nation. His weaknesses will be exposed against top competition. He is usually a prospect that is missing something from his game. For example, he has the size and skills to be an outstanding prospect, but lacks the speed. He will usually rate in the top half of the players at his position and is considered a middle round draft choice.

50-59 Adequate Prospect
These are usually players that play at a high level in college, but lack some measurables or skills to play at that same level in the NFL. He may be a player that has a lot of developmental qualities, or could be a player that will contribute right away on special teams or in a situational capacity. He will usually rate in the second-third at his position and is considered a fifth round draft choice.

21-49 Borderline Draft Prospect
These are players that teams like something about, but certainly do not have the full package in terms of NFL talent. A lot of times, teams will take chances on character players or developmental type athletes with this grade. And often, these are players that come from smaller schools or did not standout at the college level. NFL teams are looking for 'diamonds in the rough' with this type of prospect. He will usually rate in the bottom third of players at his position and will be considered a late round draft choice or un-drafted free agent.

20 Free Agent Prospect
These are players that did not make our original 'evaluation list' but are prospects that need to be monitored. Especially in the pre-season, these players will fluctuate up and down depending on performance in their final year of eligibility.

10 Not a legitimate Prospect
These are players that lack NFL measurables and/or skills. They are players that we feel would not even make a solid contribution as a training camp body.

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS

DANIEL JEREMIAH – NFL.com

Last updated: March 28, 2022

1. Aidan Hutchinson
Michigan · Edge · Senior

Hutchinson is an ultra-productive edge rusher with ideal size, quickness and polish. He stood up this past season in defensive coordinator Mike Macdonald's system at Michigan. As a pass rusher, he has a quick first step and a wide array of hand moves to generate pressures/sacks. He's collected wins with dip/rip moves, quick hand swipes, long inside-arm bull rushes and swim moves. He can feel when OTs overset and he is quick to counter inside. He also has the ability to grab and control the wrist of his opponent. He doesn't have elite bend at the top of his rush, but once free, he has an impressive closing burst. In the run game, he holds the point of attack and his effort is nonstop on the backside. Hutchinson isn't in the same class as the Bosa brothers, but he's not far behind.

2. Ickey Ekwonu
N.C. State · OT · Junior

Ekwonu is a thick, powerful tackle prospect with a nasty play style. In pass protection, he carries his hands low but he delivers a quick, powerful punch to stun edge rushers. He is quick to kick out and handle speed on the edge, but he's had issues oversetting, resulting in pressures. He can sink his weight and absorb bull rushers. He is at his best in the run game. He rolls his hips on contact and uproots defenders with force. Ekwonu is quick out of his stance on pulls and delivers knockout shots at the second and third levels. He constantly blocks to and through the whistle. He's not a finished product in pass protection, but the tools are all there. Worst-case scenario, he slides inside and becomes a Pro Bowl-caliber guard.

3. Sauce Gardner
Cincinnati · CB · Junior

Gardner is a tall, long cornerback with elite movement skills and toughness. In press coverage, he uses his length to successfully re-route wideouts. He has abnormal fluidity for such a huge cornerback (6-foot-3, 200 pounds). He can completely open his hips to mirror and match underneath. He's rarely out of position, but if it happens, he has an incredible burst to recover. From off coverage, he is fluid and explodes out of his plant and drive. He has natural ball skills; he can find it and play it. His overall awareness is excellent. He is very willing as a run defender and blitzer. Although he'll miss an occasional tackle, the aggressiveness and want-to are easy to identify. Overall, Gardner has a unique skill set for his size, and I see similarities to four-time Pro Bowler Antonio Cromartie coming out of Florida State.

4. Kyle Hamilton
Notre Dame · S · Junior

Hamilton has rare height (6-4), length and fluidity for the safety position. Against the pass, his versatility is a major asset. He has exceptional instincts from the deep half and his range is off the charts (see: INT vs. Florida State). He eats up ground quickly with his long stride and has the athleticism and speed to mirror tight ends and slot wideouts all over the field. Hamilton is an explosive blitzer from depth. He can find and play the ball with ease. Against the run, his burst and angles to the ball are highly impressive, but he will go low and miss a few tackles. I love his competitiveness and production covering punts. Hamilton has all of the tools to emerge as a Pro Bowler early in his career.

5. Garrett Wilson
Ohio State · WR · Junior

Wilson is a highly competitive wideout with route polish and excellent run-after-catch ability. He doesn't have elite speed, but gets to his top speed very quickly in the route. He is very crisp at the the top of routes, creating a lot of separation. The Ohio State product makes several plays above the rim and really plays much bigger than his size (6-foot, 188). He does have a few concentration drops, but I believe that is correctable. Wilson is at his best after the catch, as he can make defenders miss, power through tackles or utilize a stiff arm. I love his competitive nature. Overall, Wilson has a complete skill set and reminds me of Stefon Diggs.

6. Travon Walker
Georgia · Edge · Junior

Walker is a versatile edge defender with exceptional length and athleticism. He primarily aligned on the edge, but played inside, too. As a pass rusher, he isn't ultra-explosive, but he's smooth and powerful. He loves to widen the offensive tackle with his upfield rush before using his inside arm to jolt and walk him back to the QB. He also flashes a quick swipe move to create pressures. He's very disruptive, but he's left some sacks on the field because of missed tackles. The Bulldogs dropped him into coverage quite a bit, and he's made some incredibly athletic plays, including one particular pass breakup versus Florida. Against the run, he dominates with his length and power at the point of attack. He destroys tight ends. I believe Walker's best football is ahead of him.

7. Evan Neal
Alabama · OT · Junior

Neal is a massive left tackle (6-foot-7, 350 pounds, per school measurements) with strong hands, quick feet and awareness. In the passing game, he has the foot quickness to handle speed rushers. He uses his length to keep his chest clean and has a firm anchor versus power rushers. He can bend his knees and sink his weight, but there are times when he gets too aggressive, lunges and winds up on the ground. In the run game, Neal has strong hands and lower power to generate movement at the point of attack. He has the athleticism to adjust at the second level and in space on screens. Overall, I'd like to see Neal improve his patience and balance, but he has all of the tools to emerge as a frontline starting tackle early in his career.

8. Drake London
USC · WR · Junior

London is a jumbo-sized wideout with a rare catch radius and outstanding toughness. He has lined up outside and in the slot. He doesn't have ideal speed, but he's very quick off the line and at the top of his route. He is a nuanced route runner, and it's impressive to see how quickly he can get in and out of breaks at his size (6-5, 210). He dominates on 50/50 balls, making spectacular grabs (SEE: Colorado game). London understands how to use his big body to shield off defenders before attacking the ball. After the catch, he seeks out contact and fights for extra yards. He plays with an edge as a blocker, as well. Overall, some will have concern with his lack of top speed, but he reminds me of Mike Williams coming out of Clemson.

9. Jermaine Johnson II
Florida State · Edge · Senior (RS)

Johnson transferred from Georgia to Florida State for his final college season and put up monster numbers for the Seminoles. He has ideal size, length and quickness. As a pass rusher, he has a quick get-off, but he needs to lengthen his stride and gain more ground. He uses his length to snatch/pull tackles (SEE: sack/forced fumble/TD return vs. Clemson) to collect sacks. He also has a steady bull rush to walk tackles back to the quarterback. He does have hip tightness when he gets to the high side of his pass rush. Against the run, he uses his length to keep blockers away from his frame and he sets the edge consistently. He runs well and his effort is very good on the back side. Overall, Johnson should be a three-down player early in his career.

10. Kayvon Thibodeaux
Oregon · Edge · Junior

Thibodeaux has ideal size (6-5, 258), length and explosiveness. He moved up and down the line of scrimmage in the Ducks' scheme, but primarily stood up on the edge. He shows a tremendous burst off the snap and excels using his inside arm to stab, create space, close and finish. He also has an effective shake/bull move to rock and displace offensive tackles. Thibodeaux does have some ankle tightness at the top of his rush; he isn't an elite bender. Against the run, he easily stacks blocks vs. tackles and tight ends while locating the football. He has speed to close from the back side but his effort is spotty. Overall, Thibodeaux doesn't have ideal flexibility, but his blend of speed and power should translate successfully at next level.

11. Jordan Davis
Georgia · DT · Senior

Davis is an enormous defensive tackle prospect with surprising quickness and athleticism. As a pass rusher, he's primarily a pocket-collapse player rather than a polished technician. He's able to bend, latch on and walk opposing linemen right back to the quarterback. He flashes quick hands, and I believe he has upside to develop into more of a threat. He is at his best versus the run. He is immovable inside, locks out blocks and eliminates space for runners. He has outstanding block recognition, handles double teams and possesses surprising range. He makes plays down the field, which is incredible to see at his size. Not every team will value his skill set, but I think he can be a dominant force in the right scheme.

12. Devin Lloyd
Utah · LB · Senior (RS)

Lloyd is a tall, rangy linebacker with excellent versatility and production. He split time between lining up on the edge and at inside linebacker. Against the pass, he can run and mirror TEs all over the field. He is very instinctive as a zone dropper, able to anticipate, drive and make plays on the ball. His ball skills are special for a linebacker (SEE: pick-six against Stanford). Lloyd is an effective blitzer off the edge, displaying a burst to close and wreak havoc in the backfield. Against the run, he plays downhill and uses his length to play off of blocks and collect tackles. He has excellent lateral range. He does have some stiffness in space, but is a reliable tackler. I love Lloyd's play speed, passion and aggression. He has Pro Bowl potential.

13. Nakobe Dean
Georgia · LB · Junior

Dean is an undersized linebacker with exceptional instincts and play-making ability. Against the run, he is quick to read, flow and fill for tackles. He is two steps ahead of everyone on the field because of his combination of knowledge, vision and instincts. He has excellent speed and range. He is a firm, chest-up tackler with a high batting average in space. Against the pass, he has the athleticism to match up with RBs and TEs underneath. He has good feel and burst to close as a zone dropper. He is an outstanding blitzer, utilizing timing and the ability to slip blockers for sacks/pressures. The Georgia staff raves about his leadership. Dean reminds me a lot of Jonathan Vilma coming out of Miami.

14. Trent McDuffie
Washington · CB · Junior

McDuffie is a slightly undersized cornerback with tremendous quickness, awareness and toughness. He's been successful relying on a variety of techniques. In press, I've seen him use a quick two-hand jam, bail or patiently sit and mirror. He is a very fluid mover and carries vertical routes with ease. In off coverage, he primarily plays from a side shuffle, where he can see through the wideout to the quarterback. He can anticipate and drive on the ball very quickly. McDuffie is rarely out of position and that's probably why he doesn't get much action to his side of the field. He is an aggressive run defender and a sure tackler in space. He's also an explosive blitzer and he's been productive on punt and kickoff teams. Overall, McDuffie is one of the safest players in the draft.

15. Derek Stingley Jr.
LSU · CB · Junior

Stingley has ideal size (6-1, 195), speed and fluidity for the position. He had a monster freshman season, but his play was inconsistent in 2020 and 2021. He is at his best in press coverage, as he effectively re-routes wideouts with a one- or two-hand jam. He has easy speed to carry vertical routes and can flip his hips smoothly to redirect on underneath routes. Stingley is always in position downfield, but he's given up some plays on 50/50 balls. From off coverage, he has a smooth pedal and explodes out of his plant/drive. His instincts are excellent, but I do have concerns with his effort and execution as a tackler. Overall, Stingley has all of the tools to be an elite cover man, but he needs to play with more urgency and aggression.

16. Chris Olave
Ohio State · WR · Senior

Olave has average height and a lean/wiry frame for the position. He is a very smooth mover and has terrific speed. Against press coverage, he relies on his foot quickness to win, but he does get caught and re-routed on occasion. He needs to add upper-body strength. He is an excellent route runner -- fluid in and out of breaks -- and creates a lot of separation. Olave is at his best in the vertical passing game. He can find another gear when the ball is in the air, tracking it naturally, and he can finish consistently. He displays burst after the catch, while lacking the strength to pull through tackles. Overall, Olave needs to get stronger, but he's a home-run hitter with outstanding route polish.

17. Jameson Williams
Alabama · WR · Junior

Williams is a tall, lean and explosive wideout. Everything he does on the field is sudden and fast. He explodes off the line in his release; just when you think he's reached top speed, he taps into a gear that very few possess. He turns quick-hitters into long touchdowns and climbs on top of coverage in every game viewed. He is at his best on runaway routes, but flashes the ability to efficiently get in and out of breaks. His hands are inconsistent, though. He lets too many balls get into his body and that results in drops. After the catch, Williams destroys pursuit angles with his speed. His production as a gunner on the punt team speaks to his competitiveness. He suffered a torn ACL in the College Football Playoff National Championship, but once healthy, Williams could emerge as one of the premier deep threats in the NFL.

18. George Karlaftis
Purdue · Edge · Junior

Karlaftis has outstanding size, power and instincts off the edge, but he doesn't have ideal length. As a pass rusher, his best weapon is converting speed to power. He explodes upfield before jolting tackles with his hands and powering through them. He also will flash a nifty arm-over or spin move on occasion. He has a GPS system to feel and locate the QB once the passer tries to escape the pocket. Even if Karlaftis gets stuck early in the play, he refuses to stay blocked and creates late pressure. He isn't a bendy/loose athlete at the top of his rush, though. Against the run, he sets the edge easily against single blocks and he shoots gaps to split double teams. Overall, Karlaftis reminds me a lot of another former Boilermaker, Ryan Kerrigan.

19. Dax Hill
Michigan · S · Junior

Hill is a versatile safety with outstanding instincts and play speed. He spends time aligned in the middle of the field or covering in the slot. From the deep middle, he has very good anticipation and range. He is a fluid, smooth mover and he can close downhill in a hurry. In the slot, he has the hips to open up and mirror. He excels in underneath zone coverage, showing the ability to sort through traffic and make plays on the ball. He is an explosive blitzer and delivers some big hits upon arrival (SEE: Wisconsin game). He is a very dependable tackler in space. Overall, Hill is always around the ball, whether it's a run or pass. He reminds me of Packers safety Darnell Savage when he was coming out of Maryland.

20. Devonte Wyatt
Georgia · DT · Senior

Wyatt is a thick/square defensive tackle with excellent quickness. He flashes some big-time ability as a pass rusher, getting off the ball with nice burst and leverage. He has collected pressures/sacks with quick arm-overs, nifty spins and power. He is really dynamic when he changes directions, crossing the face of his opponent. His stats don't jump off the page, but that was more the result of all the talent around him on Georgia's defense. Against the run, he keeps a low pad level and controls the point of attack. He has excellent range. Wyatt has tremendous upside and could emerge as the top interior lineman in this class.

21. Treylon Burks
Arkansas · WR · Junior

Burks is a big (6-2, 225), physical wideout with outstanding run-after-catch ability. He was used in a variety of alignments in the Razorbacks' offense -- outside, in the slot, at running back and as a Wildcat QB. He caught a lot of bubbles, slants and flat routes. Arkansas liked to get the ball in his hands as soon as possible to let him display his speed and physicality after the catch. He wasn't asked to run a full complement of routes, but he's a fluid athlete and should be able to do more at the next level. He likes to cradle-catch balls on his frame, which leads to some drops, but he flashes the ability to high point and finish. Burks will need some time to develop, but he has A.J. Brown-type upside.

22. Trevor Penning
Northern Iowa · OT · Senior (RS)

Penning has ideal size and length for the position. In pass protection, he has average quickness and knee bend, but uses his length to keep defenders away from his chest. That length also allows time for his feet to catch up against edge speed. He's not always square, but he's able to run defenders around the pocket. He gives a little ground versus power before settling down. He has excellent awareness vs. twists and stunts. In the run game, Penning has the power to wash defenders down the line of scrimmage. He takes good angles to the second level, but is a little clunky in space. His effort to finish is outstanding in both the run and pass game. Overall, Penning isn't an elite bender, but his combination of length, strength and awareness is very intriguing.

23. Charles Cross
Mississippi State · OT · Sophomore (RS)

Cross is a left tackle prospect with ideal size, length and balance for the position. In pass protection, he has average foot quickness and knee bend, but he always stays attached to blocks. He absorbs power rushers after hopping back a few steps. Cross is very aware versus twists and stunts, and he has enough athleticism to slide and redirect to cover up counter moves. In the run game, he doesn't roll his hips at the point of attack, but stays on his feet and flashes upper torque to turn and dump defenders. He takes outstanding angles working up to the second level. Overall, Cross doesn't have elite agility or power, but he gets the job done. He should emerge as a quality starter early in his career.

24. Kenny Pickett
Pittsburgh · QB · Senior (RS)

Pickett has ideal size, athleticism and accuracy for the position. He has a lot of twitch in his lower half, which shows up in his ability to avoid defenders inside the pocket or escape to make plays. He has a quick release and incorporates a variety of arm angles. He doesn't have elite velocity but makes up for it with outstanding anticipation. He has quick eyes to get to his third progression. His accuracy is excellent but there have been a few occasions when his eyes are faster than his feet, which affects his ball placement. He is very poised and comfortable throwing on the move. He doesn't panic and he delivers strikes. He has excellent speed and elusiveness as a runner. There will be talk about his hand size and throwing with a glove -- neither topic concerns me. Overall, Pickett reminds me of a more athletic Matt Hasselbeck.

25. Jahan Dotson
Penn State · WR · Senior

Dotson is a slightly undersized wideout (5-11, 184) with outstanding quickness, deep speed and hands. He is a very fluid, loose route runner with the ability to accelerate in and out of breaks. He tracks the ball beautifully down the field and has another gear if needed. He attacks the ball and makes some outstanding catches away from his frame. After the catch, Dotson has the speed to pull away and makes defenders miss tackles with his elusiveness. He doesn't have the strength to break tackles consistently. His overall play strength is the only real concern with his transition to the next level, but he has the ability to produce both outside and in the slot. Dotson is ready to make an immediate impact for his drafting team.

26. Boye Mafe
Minnesota · Edge · Senior (RS)

Mafe is an ascending edge rusher with an enticing blend of speed and power. He steadily improved throughout the season, culminating with an outstanding performance at the Reese's Senior Bowl. As a pass rusher, he has an explosive first step and his hand usage has started to come together. Early in the year, he was thinking too much and segmented in his movement. But as the season went on, he played much faster and connected his feet and hands. He can generate speed to power, and he is an excellent finisher once he gets to the top of his rush. He can stack blocks and hold the point of attack in the run game. Overall, Mafe is still a raw prospect, but he’s trending in the right direction and provides double-digit sack upside.

27. Malik Willis
Liberty · QB · Senior (RS)

Willis is a thick, sturdy quarterback with elite arm strength and play-making ability. He has quick feet in his setup and he throws from a wide, firm base. He usually releases the ball out of a 3/4 arm slot and it jumps out of his hand. He generates incredible RPMs and flashes the ability to fit passes into tight windows. His accuracy is inconsistent. At times, he gets too wide with his feet and the ball sails to the perimeter. He has shown the ability to change ball speed, but he can improve on layer throws. He misses out on some completions because his throws are too flat. He's effective extending and creating against pressure (which he faced a ton of). He's outstanding on QB draws, powers and zone reads. He has a burst and pulls through tackles. Overall, Willis is still a work in progress, but he has the most upside on any QB in this class.

28. Kenyon Green
Texas A&M · IOL · Junior

Green is a big, powerful prospect with nimble feet and versatility. The 6-4, 325-pounder lined up at four of the five OL positions in 2021, and is at his best at guard. In pass protection, he has quick feet and can bend and drop his weight before shooting his hands. He has a very firm anchor versus power rushers. When he's uncovered, he looks for work and delivers some de-cleating shots. In the run game, Green rolls his hips on contact and has the ability to wash defenders right down the line. He has the quickness to reach and seal on the backside. He is also very quick to the second level, but will get overaggressive at times and hit the deck. Overall, Green's ability to create a firm pocket should be highly coveted around the league.

29. Breece Hall
Iowa State · RB · Junior

Hall is a big, smooth runner with outstanding patience and balance. He has a unique style -- almost walking to the line of scrimmage before finding a crease, getting skinny and exploding through. He has outstanding contact balance, absorbing defenders and driving his feet for extra yards. He is elusive in space. He doesn't possess elite top-end speed, but he still hits some home runs (SEE: first play from scrimmage vs. Kansas State). He is an outstanding weapon in the passing game as a clean route runner with exceptional hands. Check out his one-handed catch vs. Oklahoma. He is firm in pass protection, but has been late to identify blitzers at times. Overall, Hall has an ideal skill set for today's game.

30. Andrew Booth
Clemson · CB · Junior

Booth is an athletic, quick-footed cornerback with very good ball skills. In press coverage, he doesn't throw his hands to re-route, but does a nice job of staying in the hip pocket of the wideout. He is fluid to open up and has enough speed to stay in phase versus vertical routes. He has been inconsistent in off coverage. Occasionally, he's caught flat-footed and gives up plays over the top. However, he's very good on balls thrown in front of him. He has some pop out of his plant and he can find and play the ball. He's a willing tackler, but he had some costly misses in the games I studied. Overall, Booth is still a work in progress, but I believe he'll develop into a solid number No. 2 cornerback.

31. Kenny Walker III
Michigan State · RB · Junior

Walker is a strong, compact runner with excellent burst and balance. He excels running between the tackles. He is patient, setting up blocks and exploding through the line of scrimmage. He can absorb contact and powers through tacklers. Walker has enough speed to capture the perimeter and he hit a lot of home runs in the MSU offense. He wasn't much of a threat in the passing game, where he was utilized primarily on screens and checkdowns. He needs to improve his anchor in pass protection. Overall, Walker is a dynamic runner with plenty of growth potential in the passing game.

32. Tyler Linderbaum
Iowa · IOL · Junior (RS)

Linderbaum is an athletic center with excellent awareness and intangibles. In pass protection, he plays with a wide base and keeps his hands in tight. He has quick feet to slide and mirror and he can eventually settle/stall power rushers after giving some ground. He is very patient and effective versus twists and blitzers. There are a few rare occasions when he lunges and puts himself in a bad position. In the run game, he plays with quickness, leverage and physicality. He can torque/turn/dump defenders with his upper-body strength. He is very agile working up to the second level on combo blocks. Scouts rave about his makeup and leadership. Overall, Linderbaum should have a similar impact as Creed Humphrey did as a rookie in 2021.

33. Quay Walker
Georgia · LB · Senior

Walker is an enormous off-ball linebacker (6-4, 240) with a nice blend of speed and physicality. In coverage, he is fluid and plenty fast enough to match up with tight ends and running backs. In zone coverage, he doesn't have great anticipation, but once he diagnoses what's happening, he closes quickly. When he rushes off the edge, he doesn't have much of a plan -- but his speed/effort is outstanding. He is a violent run defender; he attacks blockers, thuds off them and makes plays. He has exceptional burst and range on plays to the perimeter. Overall, Walker is a size/speed, run-and-hit linebacker with his best football still ahead of him.

34. Zion Johnson
Boston College · IOL · Senior

Johnson has ideal size, length and intelligence for the guard position. In the pass game, he is quick out of his stance, plays with balance and absorbs rushers. He doesn't have violent hands to shock defenders, but he stays square and anchors down versus power rushers. In the run game, he takes excellent angles and successfully walls off defenders at the first and second level. He isn't an explosive, dominating presence but he consistently gets his man blocked. He plays with outstanding awareness in both the run and pass game. Overall, Johnson should be a steady, reliable starter very early in his NFL career.

35. Matt Corral
Mississippi · QB · Junior (RS)

Corral is an undersized QB (6-2, 212) with excellent athleticism and a strong arm. He has quick feet in his setup and creates a lot of force from the ground to generate velocity. He has fast hands in the RPO game and a compact delivery. There are a lot of schemed winners in this system, and he delivers the ball accurately for big plays. He does an excellent job avoiding pressure to create with his legs or simply throw the ball away. His accuracy did suffer when he was forced to move and reset. He protected the ball better in 2021, throwing 10 fewer interceptions than he did in 2020. He is an explosive ball-carrier on scrambles and designed runs. However, he takes too much punishment because of his reckless/aggressive style. Overall, Corral has an intriguing skill set, but the size combined with his play style is a concern.

36. Arnold Ebiketie
Penn State · Edge · Senior (RS)

Ebiketie is a long, twitched-up edge rusher with a nonstop motor. He has an explosive get-off and routinely rocks offensive tackles with the power in his hands. He charges upfield before powering through the outside shoulder. He also has a violent swipe move and will occasionally cross the face of the tackle with a nifty inside counter move. He can really corner and finish at the top of his rush. He isn't as dominant against the run, however. He ducks his head too often and gets washed by OTs and TEs. He lacks ideal block awareness, too. Still, the effort is always there to hustle and chase from the back side. Overall, Ebiketie is a gifted rusher who should rack up pressures/sacks while he learns to play the run with more consistency.

37. Kyler Gordon
Washington · CB · Junior (RS)

Gordon is a smooth athlete with an aggressive/physical play style. In press coverage, he doesn't like to use his hands, but he is very smooth/fluid to open up and stay in position. He has excellent speed and can gear down efficiently to work back downhill. He is very instinctive in off coverage. He is aware of down/distance and that allows him to take some chances and drive on the ball. He did lose one 50/50 battle in the tape I studied, but he has excellent ball awareness/skills. Against the run, he is often used as a blitzer and he collected a handful of tackles right at or behind the line of scrimmage, including a big-time stop on the goal line against Michigan.

38. Travis Jones
Connecticut · DT · Senior

Jones is a big, powerful defensive tackle with surprising quickness. Against the pass, he can generate immediate knockback and collapse the pocket. He uses a long inside-arm maneuver to walk centers right back to the quarterback. He flashes an explosive club move, but he needs to continue to add to his arsenal of pass-rush techniques. Against the run, he is stout versus both single and double teams. He can sink his weight and resist pressure on angle blocks. His effort is solid. Overall, Jones took his game to another level at the Reese's Senior Bowl and he has the ability to play on the other side of the line of scrimmage against both the run and pass.

39. Christian Harris
Alabama · LB · Junior

Harris is an explosive linebacker with intriguing upside, who improved every week. Against the pass, he's been asked to cover RBs, TEs and occasionally slot receivers. He has the speed to match up and can find/play the ball, as evidenced by a deft pass breakup vs LSU. He is quick to identify screens and then explodes to make the play. He is an excellent tackler in space. Harris is also a very dynamic blitzer, rocketing through gaps for sacks and pressures. Against the run, he isn't an instant key/diagnose player, but once he sees it, he has a burst to the line of scrimmage. He flashes the ability to aggressively take on blockers with his shoulder, but he gets stuck and swallowed too often. I'd like to see him use his hands more. Overall, the arrow is pointing up for Harris. His best football is ahead of him.

40. Jalen Pitre
Baylor · S · Senior (RS)

Pitre is a versatile safety with experience playing deep and in the slot. He has excellent quickness, instincts and toughness. He has the fluidity to match up in man coverage underneath and he's a dynamic blitzer. When aligned deep, he is quick to key/read and takes proper angles. He is a very reliable tackler. He doesn't possess an elite size-speed combination, but he makes up for it with his natural feel for the game. Overall, I see Pitre as an immediate-impact defender.

41. Tyler Smith
Tulsa · OT · Sophomore (RS)

Smith is a thick, explosive tackle prospect with tremendous upside. In the pass game, he has quick feet, powerful hands and plays with knee-bend. He has issues at times because he doesn't stay square and hooks defenders with his outside arm, resulting in penalties. This is fixable. He is dominant in the run game. He can roll his hips on contact and finish with regularity. He has a nasty/violent play style. Smith has the tools to be an incredible guard, but I would give him a shot to stick at tackle. Overall, there are some rough areas to smooth out but this is a very gifted athlete with the right play temperament.

42. Bernhard Raimann
Central Michigan · OT · Senior

Raimann has a fascinating story. He was a foreign exchange student from Austria, and he developed himself into a tight end prospect. In his third season at Central Michigan, he made the transition to left tackle. He is a fun player to study. In the passing game, he has enough foot quickness to handle speed rushers, and his combination of core and hand strength jumps off the screen. When he lands his punch, the play is over. He will occasionally get too wide with his base, which left him susceptible to counter moves. He is a mauler in the run game. He has knock-back power and looks to finish consistently. Overall, Raimann has picked up the position incredibly fast and should be a reliable starter early in his career.

43. Nik Bonitto
Oklahoma · Edge · Junior (RS)

Bonitto was a loose, explosive and versatile defender for the Sooners. Against the pass, he has excellent snap anticipation and burst to win right away. He can really dip, bend and close at the top of the pass rush. He is fluid and fast in everything he does on the field. He has shown the agility to peel off and mirror tight ends in coverage, too. Oklahoma used him quite a bit to spy athletic QBs. Bonitto explodes to the alley and collects tackles when those QBs attempt to take off. Against the run, he needs to win with quickness. He will get pushed around and give up the edge. Overall, Bonitto is an exceptional athlete with pass-rush production and cover ability. If he adds some strength, he could emerge as a Pro Bowl talent.

44. Skyy Moore
Western Michigan · WR · Junior

Moore is an undersized wideout (5-10, 195) with excellent quickness, play strength and route polish. He split his time between lining up outside and in the slot for WMU. He is very sudden in his release and doesn't waste any steps at the top of routes. He attacks the leverage of cornerbacks and creates a lot of separation out of the break point. He has strong hands to attack the ball and he's very tough/sturdy after the catch. Moore bounces off tacklers on quick hitters and jet sweeps. He has excellent top speed when he gets in the open field. Overall, the lack of ideal size is the only knock on Moore. He should emerge as a dangerous playmaker very early in his career.

45. Christian Watson
North Dakota State · WR · Senior (RS)

Watson is a long, rangy wideout with excellent fluidity and explosiveness. He lined up outside and was primarily used as a vertical weapon at NDSU. He gains ground in a hurry with his long stride, and he can change speeds when the ball goes up in the air. He ran by everyone he played against last season. Watson showed surprisingly good route skill at the Reese's Senior Bowl in February. He was able to win with quickness off the line and showed the ability to efficiently drop his weight and burst out of the break point down the field. He has a large catch radius, too. Overall, I thought Watson was a solid vertical/stretch receiver based on his game tape, but the Senior Bowl performance showed a more well-rounded talent. He could emerge as one of the best pass-catchers in this class.

46. Lewis Cine
Georgia · S · Junior

Cine is a tough, physical safety who plays much bigger than his size (6-2, 199). He spent a lot time aligned in the deep half of the field versus the pass. He has good instincts and range to put himself in position to make plays, but he struggles to catch the ball. He was inconsistent in man coverage against tight ends. He gives up separation out of the break, but he has the ability to recover and locate the ball in the air. Cine is at his best against the run. He takes excellent angles to the ball and explodes to the alley for big hits. He brought a lot of energy to the Georgia defense. Cine is still developing in coverage, but I love his toughness and energy.

47. David Ojabo
Michigan · Edge · Sophomore (RS)

Ojabo was a very productive edge rusher for the Wolverines despite sharing play time. He has ideal size, explosiveness and fluidity for the position. He has a dynamic get-off and once he gets to the top of his rush, he can bend and flatten to the quarterback. His hands are still a work in progress. The dip/rip move is his bread and butter, but he needs to add to his arsenal. He does flash the ability to generate power and is an outstanding finisher, often dislodging the ball upon arrival. He is raw against the run. He turns his shoulder instead of using his hands to hold the point of attack. Overall, Ojabo is still learning how to play the game, but he has as much talent as any pass rusher in this draft. Unfortunately, his 2022 season is now in doubt after he suffered a torn Achilles at Michigan's pro day.

48. Sam Howell
North Carolina · QB · Junior

Howell is a thick, compact quarterback with excellent arm strength, toughness and athleticism. I love the urgency in his drop before he settles at the top of the pocket. He has a quick release and he can really power the ball outside the numbers and down the field. He does this despite very little engagement from his lower half. He transfers his weight too early, with his back foot way off the ground. He has the ability to layer the ball accurately in the intermediate area of the field and he throws a beautiful, lofting deep ball. He has the athleticism to extend and create plays. He also has been effective on designed QB runs, bouncing off tackles and showing surprising burst in the open field. Howell does take too many sacks (at least 33 in each of his three seasons, including 48 in 2021) and tried to force too many throws this past season. However, his entire supporting cast left after the 2020 campaign and that had an impact on his production in 2021. Overall, he has NFL-starter ability.

49. Perrion Winfrey
Oklahoma · DT · Senior

Winfrey is a long, athletic interior lineman who plays the game with passion and energy. He is a tough evaluation because of the scheme at Oklahoma. There is a lot of slanting and lateral movement. That results in some penetration and disruption, but it also gets him washed out of a lot of plays. His pad level is too high, but he has the foot quickness to beat blockers and he flashes some power in his hands. He was much more impressive at the Reese's Senior Bowl. Winfrey was allowed to work up the field and he was pretty dominant, bringing home the game MVP award. In the run game, he has the length to stack and control single blocks, but he needs to improve his awareness versus angle blocks and double teams. Overall, Winfrey isn't a finished product but he has Pro Bowl potential.

50. Logan Hall
Houston · DT · Senior

Hall is a long, rangy defensive tackle with room to add weight. As a pass rusher, he comes off the ball a little too high, but he's incredibly quick and has an assortment of maneuvers to generate pressure. He has a violent club/swim move, a rip move and pure power. He also has an explosive counter move, showcasing his agility. Against the run, he can get skinny to slip blocks and make plays in the backfield. He has big-time burst and lateral range. However, he does struggle versus double teams. He's too high and can be uprooted. He plays with excellent effort, though. I think he might benefit from a move to the perimeter, keeping him away from the noise/chaos inside. He reminds me of Marcus Davenport coming out of college.

DROPPED OUT: Isaiah Spiller, RB, Texas A&M (No. 36); DeMarvin Leal, DT, Texas A&M (No. 43); Greg Dulcich, TE, UCLA (No. 46); Daniel Faalele, OT, Minnesota (No. 49); Kaiir Elam, CB, Florida (No. 50).

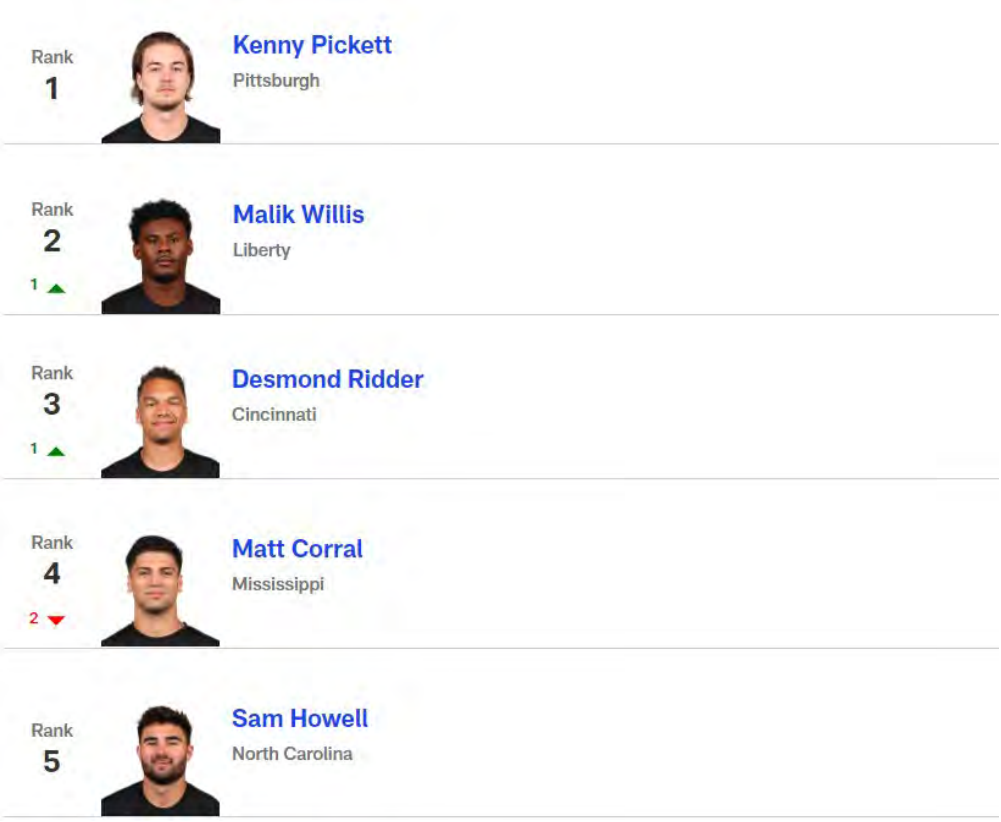
2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

Last updated: April 20, 2022

NOTE: Up-down arrows below reflect movement from my March rankings.

QUARTERBACKS



The 2022 quarterback class lacks some of the star power of previous groups, but there are certainly players at the position with intriguing talent and potential. Pickett is the headliner of the class with a combination of swagger, athleticism and arm talent that will pique the interest of coaches searching for a franchise quarterback with the intangibles to spark a turnaround. The former Pitt standout is the most pro-ready of the prospects due to his experience and expertise running an offense with pro-style concepts. Willis has boom-or-bust potential with an intriguing set of tools that will have some coaches comparing him to Josh Allen and Lamar Jackson as a possible "one-man show" at the next level. Ridder has been flying under the radar, but his experience and explosiveness make him an attractive option as a QB1 prospect. Following a strong showing at the Senior Bowl and NFL Scouting Combine, the Cincinnati product could surprise as a starter early in his career. Corral possesses compelling capabilities as a dynamic gunslinger with enough mobility and running skill to be utilized as a dual-threat QB. The Ole Miss standout is an impressive playmaker with a game that could pop in a system that mixes in some collegiate concepts. Howell has been lost in the shuffle a bit due to a slow start to the 2021 season that overshadowed a solid campaign overall. He displayed more athleticism and running skills during his final year at North Carolina, and his polished game could help him emerge as a capable starter in the right situation.

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

RUNNING BACKS

Rank 1

Breece Hall
Iowa State

Rank 2

Kenneth Walker III
Michigan State

Rank 3

Isaiah Spiller
Texas A&M

Rank 4

Kyren Williams
Notre Dame

Rank 5

James Cook
Georgia

The RB class features a number of playmakers ideally suited for a rotational role at the next level. Perhaps a workhorse will emerge in time, but most of the running backs in this group will need a sidekick in the backfield to thrive. Hall is an ultra-productive runner with outstanding vision and quick feet. He displays exceptional stop-start quickness in the hole while flashing enough speed to take it the distance in the open field. With the Iowa State star also possessing soft hands and polished receiving skills, Hall is exactly what today's NFL coaches covet in an RB1. Walker is a gritty runner with a combination of balance, body control and vision that makes him effective in any style of offense. Although he lacks elite speed and acceleration, Walker has a knack for moving the chains with the ball in his hands. Spiller is a physical runner with outstanding vision, balance and body control. He has the potential to thrive as an every-down back contributing as a runner and receiver out of the backfield. Williams is the kind of multi-purpose back every team needs in the rotation -- and a threat to score from anywhere on the field. Cook is a dynamic playmaker with the potential to produce chunk plays through the air or on the ground. The Georgia product is an intriguing option as a change-of-pace back.

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

WIDE RECEIVERS

Rank 1

Drake London
USC

Rank 2

Jameson Williams
Alabama

Rank 3

Garrett Wilson
Ohio State

Rank 4 ▲1

Chris Olave
Ohio State

Rank 5 ▼1

Jahan Dotson
Penn State

The top of the draft board at receiver is starting to resemble an ice cream shop, with so many blue-chip prospects sorted and stacked by different flavors. Whether a team is searching for a big-bodied pass-catcher with dynamic red-zone skills or a shifty route runner with big-play ability, the 2022 class has it all. London is a former hooper with outstanding size, length and leaping ability. As a super-sized pass-catcher (6-foot-4, 219 pounds), he expands the strike zone for the quarterback and could be a dominant red-zone threat from Day 1. Williams suffered an ACL tear in the College Football Playoff National Championship, but his talent keeps him in the conversation as one of the top prospects at the position. His comment at Alabama's pro day that he's "ahead of schedule" in his recovery is encouraging; if he checks out medically, Williams could shoot to the top of the charts as the premier playmaker in the class. Wilson is a polished playmaker with A+ route-running ability and ball skills. The Ohio State product could thrive as a WR1 or WR2 in an offense that emphasizes skilled route runners on the perimeter. Olave is a scoring machine with the speed and explosiveness to win on deep routes from an outside alignment. As a crafty vertical route runner, he would be a perfect fit as a WR2 in an offense that loves to push the ball down the field. Dotson is a catch-and-run specialist with outstanding speed, quickness and burst. The Penn State standout is a scheme-friendly playmaker capable of filling a variety of roles as an inside-outside threat.

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

TIGHT ENDS

Rank 1 **Trey McBride**
Colorado State

Rank 2 **Greg Dulcich**
UCLA

Rank 3 ▲1 **Jeremy Ruckert**
Ohio State

Rank 4 ▲1 **Jelani Woods**
Virginia

Rank 5 ▲NR **Isaiah Likely**
Coastal Carolina

With the tight end position gaining prominence due to more dynamic athletes carving out roles as "jumbo" receivers, offensive coordinators are searching for NBA-sized pass-catchers to anchor their aerial attacks. McBride is an ultra-productive pass-catcher who offers excellent hand-eye coordination and underrated running skills. The tough, hard-nosed playmaker runs through arm tackles in the open field to turn short passes into big gains on the perimeter. Dulcich is a crafty player with soft hands and outstanding ball skills. The former UCLA standout works the middle of the field like an NBA post player setting up in the paint. His knack for creating separation between the hashes will make him a natural chain-mover as a pro. Ruckert is a rock-solid prospect with the potential to play "Y" or "H" in an offense that features heavy personnel. As a rugged blocker with soft hands and polished receiving skills, he is an intriguing option for a team looking for a developmental prospect to throw into the rotation. Woods' impressive postseason performance has sent his stock soaring. The super-sized tight end (6-foot-7, 259 pounds) is an A+ athlete with the length and strength to develop into a dominant playmaker, whether blocking or receiving as a traditional "Y" tight end. Likely could emerge as a big-play weapon in an NFL offense that deploys him as a move tight end in spread formations. The Coastal Carolina product is a crafty route runner with the speed and quickness to separate from defenders on a variety of seam routes from the slot.

Dropped out: Jalen Wydermyer, Texas A&M (previously No. 3)

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

OFFENSIVE TACKLES

Rank 1

Ickey Ekwonu
N.C. State

Rank 2

Evan Neal
Alabama

Rank 3

Charles Cross
Mississippi State

Rank 4

Trevor Penning
Northern Iowa

Rank 5

Bernhard Raimann
Central Michigan

This year's OT class is loaded with rock-solid prospects who should be able to step onto the field as starters from Day 1. Ekwonu is an explosive run blocker with a nasty temperament that sets the tone for the front line. He mauls defenders with his exceptional combination of strength and power, finishing blocks with relentless aggression. The N.C. State product is still a work in progress as a pass protector, but his size and physical tools could enable him to quickly blossom into an elite offensive tackle. Neal is a super-sized edge blocker (6-7 1/2, 337 pounds) with natural skills as a left tackle. He has the length to stymie pass rushers off the edge and the strength to blow defenders off the ball. The Alabama standout is a powerful run blocker, but not quite as nasty as some of his counterparts on this list. Cross is a technical marvel with the athleticism, hand skills and anchor to dominate one-on-one matchups against premier pass rushers off the edge. The Mississippi State star flips the switch from technician to brawler in the run game, bullying defenders at the line of scrimmage. Penning likes to mash and maul defenders at the point of attack. With superior size (6-7, 325), length and strength, the Northern Iowa star is a problem for opponents who can't handle his bully-ball tactics on the edges. Raimann grew up in Austria and spent his first two seasons at Central Michigan playing tight end. But he is a quick study on the edge with the size (6-6, 303), length and athleticism to develop into an all-star pass protector.

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

INTERIOR BLOCKERS

Rank 1

Kenyon Green
Texas A&M

Rank 2
1 ▲

Zion Johnson
Boston College

Rank 3
1 ▼

Tyler Linderbaum
Iowa

Rank 4

Jamaree Salyer
Georgia

Rank 5

Cam Jurgens
Nebraska

The class of interior blockers includes technicians with enough power and pop to play bully ball at the line of scrimmage. Green is an athletic phone-booth controller with the strength, power and explosiveness to blow defenders off the ball in the running game. The former Texas A&M standout excels in a pin-and-pull scheme, but he displays enough athleticism to thrive in zone-based or man-blocking systems, as well. Johnson is a fierce interior blocker with a versatile game that plays in any system. He climbs to the second level quickly with superb balance and body control while flashing enough knock-back power to push defenders out of the hole. Linderbaum is an athletic pivot with polished skills and a nasty finishing move. The Iowa product is a rare find as a scrappy player with a versatile game that enables him to switch from mauler/brawler to position blocker, based on the concept or opponent. Salyer is a utility player with experience at four different positions along the front line. Although he is a perfect fit at guard, his versatility could make him the ideal "swing" player in the rotation. Jurgens' sensational workouts have helped him vault into the conversation as one of the top pivots in the draft. The ultra-athletic blocker displays a combination of balance, body control and power that makes him a scheme-friendly fit in any system.

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

EDGE DEFENDERS

Rank 1

Aidan Hutchinson
Michigan

Rank 2

Kayvon Thibodeaux
Oregon

Rank 3

Jermaine Johnson II
Florida State

Rank 4 ▲1

Travon Walker
Georgia

Rank 5 ▼1

George Karlaftis
Purdue

Teams in need of pass rushers will find plenty of intriguing options in this year's crop. Hutchinson offers A+ tools and technical skills. The 2021 Heisman Trophy runner-up combines his exceptional physical gifts and refined hand-to-hand combat ability with the relentless effort that overwhelms blockers over time. He comes with a track record of performance and production that makes him a high-floor prospect with outstanding potential. Thibodeaux is a boom-or-bust blue-chip talent with a speed-rush maneuver that is very hard to stop. The Oregon product displays exceptional balance and body control turning the corner. With outstanding instincts and snap-count anticipation enhancing his speed-rush attempts, Thibodeaux could blossom into a destructive force as a pro. Johnson is an explosive edge defender with five-star talent as a pass rusher. The Florida State standout can win with speed or power as a pass rusher, while also displaying enough grit to set the edge as a run defender. Walker is a Swiss Army Knife with the capacity to play anywhere along the line. From nose tackle to edge rusher, the Georgia product possesses the speed, athleticism and burst to be an impact defender. Although his production does not match his promise, he could come off the board quite early due to his intriguing athleticism and play-making potential. Karlaftis is a worker bee on the edge with a non-stop motor and exceptional hand skills. He is relentless in pursuing the quarterback, and his steady production is the result of his tireless approach.

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

Rank 1 **Jordan Davis**
Georgia

Rank 2 **DeMarvin Leal**
Texas A&M

Rank 3 **Logan Hall**
Houston

Rank 4 **Devonte Wyatt**
Georgia

Rank 5 **Travis Jones**
Connecticut

As NFL teams move away from the running game, defensive tackles with pass-rushing skills vault to the top of the charts. That said, the 2022 DT class still features a mix of old-school pluggers and new-school interior rushers with disruptive potential. Davis is a monstrous interior defender with exceptional run-stopping skills. He occupies multiple blockers at the point of attack and completely eliminates the running game as a one-man wrecking crew at the line of scrimmage. Leal is an active interior defender with outstanding athleticism and play-making ability. He has the capacity to neutralize the run as a power player while flashing enough agility and finesse to impact the game as an inside pass rusher. Hall has caught the attention of NFL defensive line coaches with his "hustle hard" approach. The Houston product outworks opponents in the trenches while flashing enough strength and power to win on run downs at the line of scrimmage. Wyatt's explosiveness, athleticism and power routinely overwhelm blockers at the point of attack. The Georgia product could explode as a pro with more opportunities to hunt in an aggressive one-gap system that emphasizes penetration. With an impressive Senior Bowl performance on his résumé, Jones has continually risen up the charts through the pre-draft process. As a power player with active hands and a high motor, the UConn product is an intriguing option as a plugger at the line of scrimmage.

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

LINEBACKERS

Rank 1

Devin Lloyd
Utah

Rank 2

Nakobe Dean
Georgia

Rank 3

Christian Harris
Alabama

Rank 4

Troy Andersen
Montana State

Rank 5

Chad Muma
Wyoming

The NFL's transformation into a passing league has increased the value of off-ball linebackers with the versatility and diagnostic skills to make plays against the run and pass. The 2022 class features a handful of Swiss Army Knife types with the potential to wreak havoc on opponents from the second level with their speed, athleticism and instincts. Lloyd has a nose for the ball that makes him a big-play threat in coverage. He displays the athleticism and explosiveness to create chaos as a pass rusher, too. With the former Utes star also flashing sound fundamentals as a tackler in space, he has the talent to emerge as a Pro Bowl-caliber player early in his career. Dean is a high-IQ defender. He is a read-and-react 'backer with the anticipation and awareness that defensive coordinators covet in players who wear the green dot on their helmet (defensive play-callers in the huddle). Harris is a sideline-to-sideline playmaker with outstanding instincts, awareness and tackling ability. He is a "hit, run, and cover" specialist with outstanding range and blitz ability. Andersen is an explosive athlete with the size (6-3 1/2, 243), length and strength to be effective as a run or pass defender. He displays the instincts and awareness to control the middle of the field as a designated playmaker in an aggressive scheme. Muma is an ultra-productive prospect with exceptional instincts, awareness and diagnostic skills. The Wyoming product could emerge as a dynamic playmaker in a pro scheme that maximizes his talents in coverage and as a sideline-to-sideline tackling machine with pass-rush ability.

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

CORNERBACKS

Rank 1

Sauce Gardner
Cincinnati

Rank 2 ▲1

Derek Stingley Jr.
LSU

Rank 3 ▼1

Andrew Booth
Clemson

Rank 4

Trent McDuffie
Washington

Rank 5

Roger McCreary
Auburn

The 2022 cornerback crop features prospects with the size, athleticism and ball skills to counter the explosive pass-catchers who are dominating the pro game. Gardner is the long, rangy cover corner every defensive coordinator is looking for to man the island. The former Cincinnati star displays exceptional bump-and-run skills, but he is also an instinctive defender with the capacity to thrive as a ballhawk in zone coverage. An aggressive tackler with underrated talents as a pass rusher off the edge, the 6-3, 190-pounder is the premier CB1 prospect in the class. Stingley is a five-star talent with outstanding tools (height, weight, speed, athleticism) and play-making potential, but he has not performed like an A+ prospect since his freshman season (2019). Although the LSU standout's talent and potential certainly make him a candidate to be drafted in the top 10, scouts will need to sort through his limited 2021 tape (missed all but three games due to injury) to determine if his substance as a prospect matches the sizzle. Booth is a rock-solid corner with a loaded toolbox for the position. The Clemson standout has the ball skills, instincts and agility to thrive in man or zone coverage while also setting the edge as a dependable tackler in space. McDuffie is a polished cover corner with a skill set that enables him to play a variety of techniques as a scheme-friendly playmaker. Whether playing man or zone or utilizing bump, bail or shadow techniques, the Washington standout can do it all. And defensive coaches covet high-IQ players like McDuffie. McCreary is a stingy cover corner with a game ideally suited to play in a press-heavy scheme. He is an aggressive bump-and-run defender with the speed, quickness and athleticism to shadow premier receivers at the line of scrimmage.

2022 PLAYER RANKINGS BY POSITION

BUCKY BROOKS – NFL.com

SAFETIES

Rank 1 **Kyle Hamilton**
Notre Dame

Rank 2 **Dax Hill**
Michigan

Rank 3 ▲1 **Lewis Cine**
Georgia

Rank 4 ▼1 **Jaquan Brisker**
Penn State

Rank 5 NR ▲ **Jalen Pitre**
Baylor

Safeties are underrated in the draft process unless they are impact defenders with the capacity to produce turnovers as ballhawks or create chaos near the line of scrimmage as hybrid defenders. Hamilton is a future all-star with a game built on instincts, awareness and elite athleticism. He covers ground like a center fielder while packing a punch like an All-Pro linebacker. As a middle-of-the-field defender with size, range and versatility, Hamilton is the type of player whom defensive coordinators build game plans around. Hill is an exceptional nickelback with superb instincts for the position. He is a natural slot defender with cover corner-like skills and sneaky pass-rush ability. With more teams deploying the nickel defender in a variety of roles, the Michigan product could soar up the board on draft weekend. Cine is a knockout specialist with an aggressive game that enables him to flourish near the box as a run defender. The Georgia product is an outstanding tackler with enough range to control the box from depth while also flashing the athleticism to stay over the top in coverage. Brisker possesses a variety of skills that could make him a Swiss Army Knife-like playmaker as a pro. He excels near the box, but also flashes the instincts and awareness to be an effective pass defender between the numbers. Pitre is a versatile defender with outstanding instincts, awareness and ball skills. The Baylor product is an ideal sub-package defender due to his ability to blitz and cover from the slot.

Dropped out: Verone McKinley III, Oregon (previously No. 5)

NEWS CLIPPINGS

Ravens Draft Preview: Why Northern Iowa Offensive Tackle Trevor Penning Might Be Too Good A Fit To Pass Up At No. 14

BALTIMORE SUN | APRIL 20, 2022 | CHILDS WALKER

The Ravens' plan at offensive tackle did not work in 2021.

Ronnie Stanley's ankle did not heal sufficiently. Alejandro Villanueva could not deliver reliably above-average performance at age 33. They did not have a young starter waiting in the wings, though utility man Patrick Mekari did his best.

As a result, the Ravens allowed 57 sacks last season, second most in the league and up from 32 in 2020 and 28 in 2019.

They will go into 2022 hoping, again, that Stanley is healthy enough to shield quarterback Lamar Jackson's blind side. They will likely rely on a different veteran, ultra-durable Morgan Moses, to hold the fort on the right side. But general manager Eric DeCosta has vowed not to leave his roster short of contingency options this time around. That means the Ravens will almost certainly add a young tackle, perhaps more than one, in next week's draft.

DeCosta and director of player personnel Joe Hortiz have said this is a serendipitous year to go shopping for linemen, with quality players likely to be available in each of the first four rounds.

"We feel that there's an opportunity in the draft to address the tackle spot at some point, whether it's in the first round or in the fourth round," DeCosta said at the team's pre-draft news conference earlier this month. "There are good players all throughout this year; it's a very, very deep position class. So, there are a lot of different ways for us to skin the cat, and we'll do that at some point."

Their opinion is echoed around the league, with analysts and team executives suggesting the best values in this draft will come from rounds three and four, where the Ravens will have seven combined picks.

"With the offensive line, you're going to be able to find tackles pretty much throughout this draft," said NFL Network analyst and former Ravens scout Daniel Jeremiah.

Will that depth obviate the Ravens' need to look for a tackle in the first round, especially given that they expect to start veterans at both spots? The top three players at the position, Ikem Ekwonu of N.C. State, Evan Neal of Alabama and Charles Cross of Mississippi State, are generally projected to go ahead of pick No. 14. If Cross drops out of the top 10, the Ravens could consider trading up for him, but such a move would amount to a vote of diminished confidence in Stanley's health, because Cross is considered a pure left tackle prospect with the most polished pass blocking technique in the class.

If the Ravens hold their spot, the tackle most likely to tantalize them is Northern Iowa's Trevor Penning, the consensus No. 4 player at the position and a fascinating blend of alluring and concerning traits. Would the Ravens use their first-round pick on a tackle who might not start over Moses as a rookie?

The case for Trevor Penning

If the Ravens wrote a job profile for their ideal offensive lineman, many of the traits would match up with those ascribed to the 6-foot-7, 325-pound Penning. They love ornery, gargantuan blockers who annihilate the object in front of them in the run game. Well, Pro Football Focus described Penning as "out for blood," adding that "you absolutely will not see more dominant run-blocking tape at the Division I level."

And Penning is no oaf. He was among the fastest, most agile tackles tested at the NFL scouting combine. Scouts consistently praise the bend he achieves with his massive, powerful frame.

Back in February, before the Ravens signed Moses, Jeremiah said Penning would be the surest fit imaginable if he were available at No. 14. "Because when you watch him, this guy is just a Raven," he said. "The way he plays, the physicality, he's huge. He's 330 pounds. He's almost 6-foot-7. One of my favorite nuggets on him was the guy literally watches horror movies the night before the game to get into character. I can think back to my back to my time in Baltimore when we had Orlando Brown, Zeus, the original Orlando Brown, and I thought, oh, my gosh, this would be Zeus reincarnate here with Trevor Penning."

Scouts do not love everything about Penning. He bullied lesser competition at Northern Iowa, his balance and hand technique as a pass blocker need work and he sometimes let his ferocity get the better of him in college, where he drew 34 penalties over his last 31 games.

In recent mock drafts, ESPN's Mel Kiper and Todd McShay predicted the Ravens will pass on Penning in favor of a pass rusher or defensive back. They have more holes to fill and more immediate snaps to offer on defense. They have eight picks in rounds two through four to use on a deep tackle class.

So, there are plenty of reasons to think they will look elsewhere at No. 14.

But if Penning is available, it would not be easy for them to pass on a potential starting tackle who so clearly fits their prototype for an offensive lineman.

Here are some other tackles the Ravens might consider later in the draft:

Second round

Tulsa's Tyler Smith: The 6-foot-5, 324-pound Smith could be the Ravens' man if they're looking for a raw powerhouse to develop behind Stanley and Moses. He's a Ravens-sized blocker who moves and bends well to complement his impressive strength. But draft analyst Dane Brugler of The Athletic described Smith as "incredibly raw" with fundamentals that "need to be rebuilt from the ground up."

Third round

Minnesota's Daniel Faalele: In a world of awesome physical specimens, they don't come any more awesome than the 6-foot-8, 390-pound Faalele. The Ravens love big linemen, but Faalele would dwarf even Ben Cleveland, the mountainous guard they picked last year. The Australia native did not play in an organized football game until his senior year of high school but started for two seasons as a right tackle at Minnesota and proved about as immovable as you might expect. Faalele needs plenty of refinement as a pass blocker, but he would be a fascinating developmental prospect behind Stanley and Moses.

Fourth round

Penn State's Rasheed Walker: The 6-foot-6, 324-pound Walker was a four-star recruit out of Waldorf and started at left tackle for three years at Penn State, where he displayed the quick feet and flexibility needed to thrive at the premium position. But some draft analysts say his college performance did not ultimately match his tools as he struggled to clean up bad habits with his footwork and body positioning. Nonetheless, he would be an intriguing prospect for the Ravens to coach up at either tackle spot.

"If you want to like him, you can find tape that you will really like him. If you want to be bummed out about him, you can find tape to be bummed out about him," Jeremiah said. "But this guy has got it all in his body. He is a true wild-card guy. If he gets with the right offensive line coach, he could end up being a really good starter, or he could end up really struggling somewhere."

Mock Draft Roundup 12.0: Pundits Zeroing In On Five Targets For Ravens

BALTIMORERAVENS.COM | APRIL 19, 2022 | RYAN MINK

CB Trent McDuffie, Washington
2021 stats: 11 games, 35 tackles, 4 tackles for loss, 0 interceptions

Mel Kiper, ESPN

"The Ravens have options here. They could also go with an offensive tackle or defensive lineman. McDuffie gives them versatility and depth at a position that was injury-hit last season."

Nate Davis, USA Today

"The latest in a long line of quality Huskies corners, he has 4.4 speed, elite cover skills, smarts and the versatility to play in just about any scheme. The Ravens have historically stockpiled first-rate DBs yet have developed a need with Tavon Young moving to Chicago and Marcus Peters, who's got a year left on his contract, trying to rebound from a torn ACL."

LB Devin Lloyd, Utah
2021 stats: 14 games, 111 tackles, 7 sacks, 22 tackles for loss

Adam Rank, NFL.com

"There is no player in this draft I look at more and think, 'This guy should be a Raven,' than my guy Devin Lloyd. He's the kind of player who can get to the passer and also excels in coverage. I'm telling you, there's no such thing as the perfect pick. But this might be the perfect pick."

Dane Brugler, The Athletic

"I don't think anyone would be surprised if the Ravens drafted an offensive tackle (Trevor Penning), edge rusher (George Karlaftis) or defensive lineman (Jordan Davis) here. But a versatile linebacker like Lloyd will also be an appealing option with four-down skills that would be a great fit in Baltimore's scheme."

EDGE Jermaine Johnson II, Florida State
2021 stats: 12 games, 70 tackles, 17.5 tackles for loss, 11.5 sacks

Connor Orr, Sports Illustrated

"Drafting Johnson would give the Ravens one of the best young edge tandems in the league—an athletic set of players who could torture Joe Burrow and get upfield quickly to keep Deshaun Watson in the pocket. Obviously, a cornerback makes some sense here for Baltimore, but if you think long-term about the way the AFC North is shaping up, the value will be in more players to swarm the passer."

Ryan Wilson, CBS Sports

"After transferring from Georgia, Johnson had a fantastic season at Florida State. And he told us at the combine that he felt like he had something to prove going from the SEC to the ACC. He did that and then some, then he dominated the Senior Bowl, and followed that up with an electric workout in Indy. The Ravens drafted Odafe Oweh a year ago and he'll get a running mate with Johnson here."

DL Jordan Davis, Georgia
2021 stats: 14 games, 32 tackles, 5 tackles for loss, 2 sacks

Sam Monson, Pro Football Focus

"Davis is an enigma — an all-time freak of an athlete who needs projection in several different ways to justify a draft pick this high. Baltimore has a history of coveting big bodies up front and has the kind of program to help him realize his potential. Davis has only played a little over 1,100 snaps in his entire college career and notched only 30 pressures in four years. A team drafting him believes his impact can be orders of magnitude higher than that."

EDGE George Karlaftis, Purdue
2021 stats: 12 games, 39 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, 4.5 sacks

Mark Maske, The Washington Post

"The Ravens get a pass rusher who fits in well with what they do. Their other option here would be to bolster the offensive line."

OT Trevor Penning, Northern Iowa

Peter Schrager, NFL.com

"Love this fit, both for the landing spot and value. Lamar Jackson will relish playing behind Penning, who has a nasty streak the Ravens may have lost when they traded Orlando Brown Jr. a year ago."

C Tyler Linderbaum, Iowa

Charles Davis, NFL.com

"The Ravens need stability at the pivot on offense, and this latest Hawkeye OL prodigy is the 2022 version of Creed Humphrey (who was fantastic for K.C. in 2021). I know, I know -- DT is also in heavy consideration here."

Ravens Draft Preview: Why Georgia DL Jordan Davis Could Be More Than An Elite Run-Stuffer

BALTIMORE SUN | APRIL 18, 2022 | JONAS SHAFFER

Last year, with their secondary well stocked and their pass rush trending up, the Ravens spent a small fortune on a questionable investment: their run defense.

Defensive lineman Calais Campbell, after a 2020 season low on sacks (four, his fewest since his rookie year) and high on absences (four missed games, the most in his career), returned to Baltimore with a $13 million salary cap hit. Defensive tackle Brandon Williams, a reliable and durable interior anchor over eight seasons with the Ravens, was also back. His price tag: $12.9 million.

Stopping the run has long been “a Ravens tenet,” general manager Eric DeCosta said at the NFL scouting combine last month, and in an otherwise disastrous defensive season, Campbell and Williams could not be blamed for a leaky front. The Ravens finished third in the NFL in yards per carry allowed (3.8) and fourth in overall efficiency, according to Football Outsiders. Only five opponents rushed for at least 100 yards against them.

But in devoting nearly one-seventh of the Ravens’ salary cap space to two run-stopping stalwarts, DeCosta saw limited dividends. Campbell finished with 12 quarterback hits and 1 ½ sacks; Williams had one and none, respectively. For more than the price of two Arik Armsteads, the pass-rush-challenged Ravens got just 19 total quarterback pressures from the duo. Seventy-five defenders finished with more last season, according to Pro Football Reference, and Armstead alone had 17.

With Campbell, Williams and tackle Justin Ellis all headed to free agency after the 2021 season, team officials saw this offseason as an opportunity to modernize an aging, old-school line. But a youth movement has yet to get off the ground. Campbell, who turns 36 in September, signed a two-year, $12.5 million extension last week. Tackle Michael Pierce, who turns 30 in November and has 6 ½ sacks over five NFL seasons, returned to Baltimore last month on a three-year, $16.5 million contract.

Even as young linemen Justin Madubuike and Broderick Washington prepare for bigger roles in first-year coordinator Mike Macdonald’s defense, the Ravens face a fascinating question ahead of next week’s NFL draft, where they have the No. 14 overall pick: Is behemoth Georgia defensive tackle Jordan Davis’ potential too great to ignore as a possible first-round pick?

The case for Jordan Davis

DeCosta has had four first-round picks in his first three years in charge of the Ravens’ draft, and one trait unites them all: straight-line speed. Wide receiver Marquise “Hollywood” Brown, when healthy, was considered a threat to break the combine’s 40-yard-dash record. Patrick Queen’s 40 time ranks in the 94th percentile among inside linebackers, while Odafe Oweh’s ranks in the 99th among edge rushers. Only wide receiver Rashod Bateman’s predraft speed wasn’t elite, and he still clocked a 4.4-second 40 at his pro day.

At 6 feet 6, 340 pounds, Davis does not profile as a track and field star. He emerged as perhaps the country’s best defender last season not because he dominated like Aaron Donald but because he dominated like his playing idol, John Henderson, the former Jacksonville Jaguars defensive tackle who would rag-doll opposing linemen.

At the combine, though, Davis showed that freakish athleticism is indiscriminate in nature. He was taller than tight end Rob Gronkowski, heavier than offensive tackle Jason Peters, faster than quarterback Patrick Mahomes (4.78-second 40) and quicker off the line than wide receiver Jarvis Landry (1.68-second 10-yard split).

Davis’ Relative Athletic Score, which uses a player’s measurables to determine his athletic potential, is a perfect 10. He’s the most athletic defensive tackle prospect since at least 1987, according to RAS developer Kent Lee Platte, and the second-most athletic prospect ever, behind only Hall of Fame wide receiver Calvin Johnson.

“He was the best guy out there,” an NFC executive told Sports Illustrated after the combine. “One of the single-most impressive combine performances ever.”

Davis’ size belies his role at Georgia. Despite having the frame of a prototypical two-gapping nose tackle — in a two-gap scheme, which the Ravens have traditionally used, down linemen are responsible for handling the gap on either side of them — Davis often lined up elsewhere. He played more snaps aligned as a three-technique (over the opposing guard’s outside shoulder) than as a one-technique (over either shoulder of the center) or zero-technique (face-to-face with the center), according to Sports Info Solutions.

That versatility could make him a fit in Baltimore, where Pierce projects as Williams' replacement at nose tackle. Davis could share early-down snaps with Madubuike, one of the Ravens' top defenders against zone-blocking schemes; Campbell, who could benefit from a less-is-more approach in his 15th NFL season; and Washington, who was stout in a reserve role in his second season. Lineman Derek Wolfe, if his health cooperates, could also start on either side of Pierce.

Davis' pass-rush production is limited, but his potential is intriguing. He never had more than 2 ½ sacks in any of his four seasons at Georgia, relying mostly on a powerful bull rush. Davis also played just 25 pass-rush snaps on third or fourth down last year, according to SIS, owing largely to his poor conditioning and the Bulldogs' wealth of pass rushers. But Georgia coach Kirby Smart said at the team's pro day last month that Davis "absolutely" could have been a three-down lineman for the team and noted that Davis flashed his pass-rush ability regularly in practice.

Even if a slimmed-down, coached-up Davis offers little on passing downs, his mere presence could help the Ravens' pass defense. In the modern NFL, as defenses increasingly turn to two-high-safety structures that sacrifice numbers in the box for more coverage downfield, a tackle as strong as Davis changes the math on run plays. If it takes two offensive linemen to block one defensive linemen, why task a safety with a run fit? As teams search for the NFL's next star interior pass rusher, there's still value in a potentially generational run stuffer.

"The game has changed," DeCosta said at the combine last month. "We have always believed, and still believe, that you've got to stop the run. … On the other hand, teams are throwing the ball more and more. Teams are using the passing game more and more. The running game is maybe not what it was for most teams five years ago, 10 years ago. We've always wanted a strong defensive line, guys that could two-gap and stop the run. In saying that, we also want guys that can rush the passer."

Here are some other linemen the Ravens might consider later in the draft:

First round

Georgia's Devonte Wyatt: The 6-3, 307-pound Wyatt had just five sacks over his four years with the Bulldogs, the last two as a starter, but he has the tools, motor and versatility to develop into a disruptive interior pass rusher. Wyatt showed his explosive traits at the combine, where he ran the 40 in 4.77 seconds and posted an impressive broad jump. His lateral mobility should make him effective defending zone concepts and running pass-rush games.

On the field, Wyatt never had more than 2 ½ sacks in a season, hurt somewhat by Georgia's conservative scheme, and with his average length, he can cede ground against double teams. Off the field, there are potentially more significant red flags. Walter Football reported Thursday that Wyatt has been involved in multiple domestic violence incidents. Considering the Ravens' zero-tolerance policy, a background investigation could be disqualifying.

Second round

Oklahoma's Perrion Winfrey: The 6-4, 292-pound Winfrey finished a solid week at Senior Bowl practices with a standout performance in the showcase game, finishing with three tackles for loss, including two sacks, and Most Valuable Player honors. He has an imposing frame, impressive length, heavy hands and a quick first step, which helped him rack up 5 ½ sacks and 11 tackles for loss in 12 games last season. Winfrey isn't an especially fluid athlete, however, and his delayed reaction time and limited array of pass-rush counters will have to improve.

Third round

Alabama's Phidarian Mathis: The 6-4, 312-pound Mathis moved all around the Crimson Tide's front last season, finishing with nine sacks in 15 games (12 starts). But he projects as more of a high-impact run defender at the next level, where his burly frame, active hands and solid awareness can help him take on double teams and work as a two-gapping tackle. Despite Mathis' arsenal of moves and counters, his average change-of-direction ability will hurt on passing downs.

Fourth round

Tennessee's Matthew Butler: The 6-4, 295-pound Butler improved every year with the Volunteers, culminating in his 2021 season, when he had 8 ½ tackles for loss and five sacks in 13 games (12 starts). Defensive line coach Rodney Garner called Butler, a team captain, "probably the smartest guy I've ever coached, by far," and his effort and technique show up on tape. But he lacks elite physical traits, and he could struggle to hold up inside against bigger offensive linemen.

Warp Speed Again! Ravens Set For Another Historically Busy Round Of Drafting

ESPN | APRIL 18, 2022 | JAMISON HENSLEY

The Baltimore Ravens are set to boldly go where no NFL team has gone before. Well, no team other than the Ravens.

If the Ravens use all five selections in the fourth round of this year's draft (Round 1 is April 28 on ESPN, ABC and ESPN App.), Baltimore will match its NFL record from six years ago with the most picks in the first five rounds in draft history, according to ESPN Stats & Information research.

When the Ravens had five picks in the fourth round in 2016, coach John Harbaugh compared the experience to "Star Trek," saying then-general manager Ozzie Newsome was Picard and then-assistant GM Eric DeCosta was Spock.

"To me, we were in battle with the Klingons!" Harbaugh said with a smile.

The Ravens' fourth-round picks that year were far from historic. Baltimore's five selections -- cornerback Tavon Young, wide receiver Chris Moore, guard Alex Lewis, defensive tackle Willie Henry and running back Kenneth Dixon -- combined for 50 starts for the Ravens and no trips to the Pro Bowl. Only Young and Moore remain in the NFL, and neither is currently with the Ravens.

Baltimore now finds itself in the rare situation again. In the common draft era (since 1967), the only time a team had more than five picks in the same round was 1968, when the Cincinnati Bengals had nine selections in the sixth round.

Coming off last year's last-place finish, the Ravens are looking for immediate dividends from a very busy fourth round.

"My mindset is every guy that we take in the fourth round this year better be playing for us -- that's why we're taking him," said DeCosta, who is in his fourth season as the Ravens GM. "That's our expectation from day one; they go out here, they hit the ground running, and they play. So, that's just the way that we look at it. Now, does the data back that up? Probably not, but that's what we think."

Of the 369 players drafted in the fourth round over the last decade, there have been almost as many players who didn't play a game as a rookie (37) as those who started over half their games in their first seasons (43). Last year, 19 of the 39 players taken in the fourth round were on the field for less than 200 snaps.

Baltimore believes the fourth round will be more loaded than usual. Before last year's draft, Ravens director of player personnel Joe Hortiz told owner Steve Bisciotti that the 2022 one was going to be "pretty fat" because of the players coming back from COVID-19 after gaining an extra year of eligibility.

"I'm really excited about it because I think we have third-round value in those fourth-rounders," Bisciotti said. "That, to me, is the way I'm looking at it and I think the grades are reflecting that on the draft charts that Eric has given me so far. You start looking at guys with certain grades and there's just too many of them for some of them not to be there in the fourth round."

The Ravens' fourth round begins with the fifth selection of Day 3 (the 110th overall pick), which came as a result of Baltimore sending its 2022 fifth-round pick, 2023 seventh-round pick and offensive lineman Ben Bredeson to the New York Giants.

The Ravens then have picks Nos. 119 (their own fourth-rounder), 128 (acquired from the Arizona Cardinals), 139 (compensatory pick for losing Matthew Judon) and 141 (comp pick for losing Yannick Ngakoue).

In total, Baltimore is scheduled to pick five times in a span of 31 selections.

What Do The Ravens Still Need? Looking At How They Could Deploy Their 10 Draft Picks

THE ATHLETIC | APRIL 18, 2022 | JEFF ZREBIEC

In mid-January, when their offseason had just begun and their moves in free agency and the draft were the subjects of much speculation, the Ravens' needs were abundantly clear.

Adding pass rushers was a must. The offensive and defensive lines needed to be strengthened. Restocking the defensive backfield was essential. There were depth issues at inside linebacker and tight end that had to be addressed.

Three months later, the Ravens list of needs hasn't changed a whole lot even after the Ravens have been moderately active in free agency with the signings of right tackle Morgan Moses, nose tackle Michael Pierce and safety Marcus Williams and the re-signings of fullback Patrick Ricard, defensive end Calais Campbell, inside linebacker Josh Bynes and safety Tony Jefferson.

While the Ravens are still involved in the free-agent market, general manager Eric DeCosta recently made clear that the organization's focus is on the draft. The Ravens have 10 picks at their disposal with all but one of them coming within the first four rounds.

We vowed to update the Ravens' list of needs periodically throughout the offseason. With the draft starting Thursday, April 28, now feels like a good time. Below is a position-by-position look at what the Ravens have, what they need and the likelihood of them addressing it in the draft. Positions are listed in order of need, starting with their biggest perceived needs first:

1. Outside linebacker

What they have: Odafe Oweh, Tyus Bowser, Jaylon Ferguson, Daelin Hayes

What they need: High-impact edge rushers

Chances that Ravens address position in draft: 100 percent

The question isn't whether the Ravens will draft an edge rusher. It's when they will and how many they'll take. Oweh (shoulder) and Bowser (Achilles) are coming off offseason surgeries and Ferguson and Hayes didn't have a sack last year. The Ravens likely will sign or trade for a veteran pass rusher at some point before training camp, but it's also imperative that they come out of this draft with an expected Day 1 difference-maker on the edge. If there's a guy they love available at 14, like say Florida State's Jermaine Johnson, they should run up the card. The Ravens run defense is always stout. Their secondary has a lot of front-end talent. Yet, if they can't get a consistent pass rush and don't have guys up front capable of making game-changing plays, it's tough to project a defensive turnaround.

2. Cornerback

What they have: Marlon Humphrey, Marcus Peters, Kevon Seymour, Robert Jackson, Kevin Toliver, Iman Marshall

What they need: Two starting-caliber corners and depth

Chances that Ravens address position in draft: 100 percent

For an organization that has watched seasons go down the drain because of unrelenting cornerback injuries, the current depth chart at the position has to be worrisome. DeCosta admitted as much. Ravens officials would almost certainly agree with the theory that every team needs four or five starting-caliber corners. The Ravens have Humphrey, Peters and a group of players who spent much of last season on either injured reserve or the practice squad. The Ravens probably will pick multiple corners, including one on Day 1 or Day 2, and they very well might sign a veteran free agent at the position, too.

3. Offensive tackle

What they have: Ronnie Stanley, Morgan Moses, Ja'Wuan James, Jaryd Jones-Smith

What they need: A contingency plan for Stanley and depth

Chances that Ravens address position in draft: 90 percent

DeCosta has made clear that he plans on drafting at least one tackle after a year in which the team endured significant challenges at the position following a season-ending ankle injury to Stanley. Moses solidifies the right tackle spot, but at least one, if not two, additions are still needed. The Ravens are hopeful that Stanley will be healthy and back to form in September, but he's played only seven games over the past two years and he's had multiple surgeries. James is also a wild card having missed the last two seasons. If the Ravens don't take a tackle in the first round, they figure to do it on Day 2.

4. Interior defensive line

What they have: Calais Campbell, Justin Madubuike, Michael Pierce, Derek Wolfe, Broderick Washington, Kahlil McKenzie, Isaiah Mack, Aaron Crawford, Xavier Kelly

What they need: An interior pass rush threat and depth

Chances that Ravens address position in draft: 95 percent

The signing of Pierce and the return of Campbell certainly helps, but this is another position that the Ravens can't — and won't — ignore in the draft. With Wolfe's health and future with the team uncertain, the Ravens have to add at least one, if not two, players to their defensive line rotation. They have plenty of big bodies who can stop the run. What they don't have are interior defensive linemen who can regularly collapse the pocket and disrupt the quarterback. If they can find that piece in the draft, it would add a new dimension to their defense. Georgia's Jordan Davis is a guy to watch at 14, but the Ravens will have to believe that he'll develop into much more than a run stuffer and space eater.

5. Inside linebacker

What they have: Patrick Queen, Josh Bynes, Malik Harrison, Kristian Welch

What they need: A dynamic three-down linebacker who holds up in coverage; depth

Chances that Ravens address position in draft: 60 percent

Bynes' return solidifies this group somewhat, but at 32 years old, he's a stopgap. At some point, the Ravens will need to find a long-term solution alongside Queen. They're always looking to get faster and more dynamic in the middle of the field, which is why it wouldn't be a total surprise if they prioritize the position in the draft. Utah's Devin Lloyd could be an option at 14. The plan is for Harrison to play some on the outside and the Ravens also have several spots to fill on special teams with Anthony Levine Sr. retiring and Chris Board departing. Both factors foreshadow the Ravens coming out of the draft with another inside linebacker.

6. Tight end

What they have: Mark Andrews, Nick Boyle, Josh Oliver, Tony Poljan, Patrick Ricard, Ben Mason

What they need: A pass-catching complement to Andrews

Chances that Ravens address position in draft: 70 percent

The Ravens love their tight ends and are never bashful about drafting them. In this case, it might be close to a necessity. Oliver didn't distinguish himself in limited opportunities as the No. 3 tight end last year and Boyle is still working his way back from a major knee injury. Andrews shouldered all of the pass-catching load in a record-breaking season last year. With how much Lamar Jackson loves to throw to his tight ends and work the middle of the field, the addition of a tight end with good speed and reliable hands would add another dimension. One of their two third-rounders or five fourth-rounders feels earmarked for a tight end. It's a deep and talented draft class at the position.

7. Interior offensive line

What they have: Kevin Zeitler, Patrick Mekari, Ben Cleveland, Tyre Phillips, Ben Powers, Trystan Colon, Jimmy Murray

What they need: Another starting center option

Chances that Ravens address position in draft: 55 percent

The Ravens say they are content with the versatile Mekari replacing Bradley Bozeman at center and they like Colon's potential, too. However, that won't stop them from seeing if they can upgrade at the position in the draft. It seems unlikely that they'll use the 14th overall pick on Iowa's Tyler Linderbaum, but there could be a few other plug-and-play centers available on Day 2. Team officials have also talked about converting a college tackle or guard into a center, which provides more options. As for guard, Zeitler is entrenched on the right side and Mekari, Cleveland and Phillips are all candidates to start on the left side. That's probably enough depth, yet they'll keep looking.

8. Running backs/fullbacks

What they have: J.K. Dobbins, Gus Edwards, Justice Hill, Ty'Son Williams, Nate McCrary, Patrick Ricard, Ben Mason

What they need: Clarity at No. 3 running back

Chances that Ravens address position in draft: 60 percent

If Dobbins and Edwards are healthy, the Ravens already have more than enough in their backfield. However, the Ravens are seemingly intent on getting a solid contingency plan for their top two backs who are coming back from major knee injuries. They've talked to veteran free agent Melvin Gordon and they surely have their eyes on selecting a running back in the draft. The fourth round would be a good spot. This draft lacks a first-round running back, but there is enough depth where teams should be able to find immediate contributors on Day 3.

9. Wide receiver

What they have: Marquise Brown, Rashod Bateman, Devin Duvernay, James Proche, Tylan Wallace, Miles Boykin, Jaylon Moore, Binjimen Victor

What they need: A big-bodied receiver

Chances that Ravens address position in draft: 50 percent

DeCosta and head coach John Harbaugh have said that they are content with what they have at the position after spending a league-high six picks, including four in the first three rounds, on receivers over the past three drafts. Yet, DeCosta downplayed wide receiver as a need before last year's draft and then went out and took Bateman in the first round and Wallace in the fourth. It's highly unlikely that the Ravens double up again, but with such a deep receiving class and 10 picks, DeCosta could take another swing at the position. With every receiver on the roster on their rookie contract, signing a veteran to serve a specific role might be more attractive than adding another young receiver to a depth chart full of them.

10. Safety

What they have: Chuck Clark, Marcus Williams, Brandon Stephens, Geno Stone, Tony Jefferson, Ar'Darius Washington

What they need: A developmental safety who could immediately factor on special teams

Chances that Ravens address position in draft: 35 percent

With the Williams' addition, the Ravens are pretty set. He and Clark should be a good tandem. Stephens, Stone, Jefferson and Washington are capable of occupying roles on defense and special teams. Stephens and Washington could also be part of the solution at slot cornerback. On Day 3, the Ravens will be in best-player available mode, so that might bring a safety into play, particularly if the safety projects to be a dynamic special teams player. Otherwise, there's not a need here.

11. Quarterback

What they have: Lamar Jackson, Tyler Huntley

What they need: A No. 3 quarterback/camp arm

Chances that Ravens address position in draft: 15 percent

There are teams that believe it's wise to select a quarterback in just about every draft, but that's never been the Ravens' philosophy. They've taken just three quarterbacks — Trace McSorley in 2020, Jackson in 2018 and Keith Wenning in 2012 — over the previous 10 drafts. Given Jackson's injury/illness issues last year and the need to have three or four quarterbacks to get through training camp and the preseason, there certainly is room to draft one. The Ravens did their homework on this year's quarterback class, but they've always been more likely to sign an undrafted free agent signal caller and/or a street free agent to help them get through the summer and potentially stick on their practice squad.

12. Specialists

What they have: Justin Tucker, Sam Koch, Nick Moore

What they need: Extra camp punter and/or kicker

Chances that Ravens address position in draft: 10 percent

The venerable Koch is heading into the last year of his contract and he turns 40 in August. Moving on from him would create $2.1 million of cap space. Penn State's Jordan Stout and San Diego State's Matt Araiza are two standout punting prospects who figure to go in the middle rounds. Could the Ravens find their successor to Koch this year? It can't be completely ruled out. When you have five fourth-round picks, you certainly have the luxury of using one on a player who could stabilize your special teams in the future. Otherwise, the Ravens will probably sign a few undrafted specialists after the draft just so they don't wear out their kicking battery over the summer.

Ranking The Ravens' Needs Entering The NFL Draft, From Quarterback To Cornerback | Analysis

BALTIMORE SUN | APRIL 13, 2022 | JONAS SHAFFER

After a quiet two weeks in free agency, the Ravens went back to checking boxes last weekend.

They needed a veteran inside linebacker, so they re-signed starter Josh Bynes to a one-year deal Friday. They needed an impact defensive lineman, so they re-signed starter Calais Campbell to a two-year deal Saturday. And because they need a lot more help elsewhere — and because they have 10 NFL draft picks to acquire it — general manager Eric DeCosta and Ravens officials went right back to studying prospects and finalizing their big board.

With the draft just two weeks away, the Ravens are close to knowing not only what roster holes to fill but also which prospects to target. Some positions, of course, require more help than others. Here's how the Ravens' needs stack up, from least urgent to most urgent.

11. Quarterback

The Ravens have a Pro Bowl player in Lamar Jackson and a more-than-competent backup in Tyler Huntley. Coach John Harbaugh didn't even bother with any draft trickery during his appearance last week on "The Rich Eisen Show," saying the Ravens won't be drafting a quarterback in the first round. If they wanted to find Jackson's eventual replacement this year, that's where they'd have to start.

10. Wide receiver

Ravens director of player personnel Joe Hortiz joked with reporters after the team's predraft news conference last week that one topic had gone conspicuously unremarked upon: wide receivers. But the Ravens, for the first time in years, don't need to find a starting-level prospect in the draft. Former first-round picks Marquise "Hollywood" Brown and Rashod Bateman impressed last season, and there's solid depth behind them.

If the Ravens do target a wide receiver, size should be a priority. Of the position's most likely contributors, only the 6-foot-1 Bateman and 6-4 Miles Boykin are taller than 6 feet. If Boykin is released or traded in a cost-cutting move this offseason, the Ravens would lose their best perimeter blocker — an overlooked asset in an offense as run-centric as coordinator Greg Roman's.

9. Safety

The Ravens ended a lot of speculation about their potential safety upgrades when they signed Marcus Williams to a five-year, $70 million contract last month. Williams should be a seamless fit in first-year coordinator Mike Macdonald's defense. His arrival not only gives the team a center field ball hawk but also allows Chuck Clark to play more often as a box safety and amplifies Brandon Stephens' versatility.

Now, would the Ravens pass on Notre Dame star Kyle Hamilton if he fell to No. 14 in the draft? Maybe not, but it depends on who else is available. And with Geno Stone, Ar'Darius Washington and Tony Jefferson all under contract, there's a solid core in place behind the Ravens' top three safeties.

8. Tight end

New Ravens tight ends coach George Godsey is stepping into a pretty nice gig. Mark Andrews led all NFL tight ends in receiving last year. Patrick Ricard is coming off a third straight Pro Bowl honor and his most well-rounded season yet. Josh Oliver made it through his first year in Baltimore healthy. Nick Boyle has the offseason to get his surgically repaired left knee back to game shape.

But if injuries get in the way again — Boyle played in just five games last season, and Ricard missed four of the Ravens' final five losses — Roman might not have the personnel to play the kind of smashmouth style he wants. And unless Oliver takes a step forward, the Ravens could enter 2022 with just one dynamic downfield target at the position.

7. Interior offensive line

With a handful of solid, young options at left guard and Patrick Mekari expected to return to center, the Ravens should enter offseason workouts on relatively solid ground here. Kevin Zeitler is coming off a strong season at right guard. The battle on the left side will feature three recent mid-round draft picks: Ben Cleveland, Ben Powers and Tyre Phillips. And behind Mekari is Trystan Colon, a solid backup center.

Still, adding a versatile Day Two or Day Three interior lineman would make sense; Hortiz said last week that the Ravens have had the chance to work out guards at center during the predraft process. If the team can find a potential starting center later in the draft, Mekari could step in as the Ravens' swing tackle. Considering the team's injury situation out wide, he might be even more valuable there than in the middle.

6. Running back

There might not be a bigger gulf in the NFL between what the Ravens have at running back now and what they could have by the middle of the season. Move Week 1 up to May, and Ty'Son Williams might be starting again, backed up by a mix of unproven young players and well-traveled veterans. Move Week 1 back to October, and J.K. Dobbins and Gus Edwards could be fully recovered from knee surgery, both ready to return to their impressive 2020 form.

The Ravens will have to negotiate that uncertainty in the coming weeks. They're reportedly interested in free agent Melvin Gordon, a two-time Pro Bowl selection who averaged 4.5 yards per carry last season for the Denver Broncos. And DeCosta said at the team's predraft news conference that, considering the Ravens' run-heavy tendencies, they would "certainly strike" if the "right guy" falls to them in the draft. It's hard to imagine team officials using a premium pick on the position, but it's just as hard to imagine them standing pat this month.

5. Inside linebacker

With Bynes re-signed and Patrick Queen returning for his third season as a starter, the Ravens have their top two inside linebackers back in Baltimore. But they'll need more help, especially as they plan for the future.

Chris Board's one-year deal with the Detroit Lions and Malik Harrison's cross-training at outside linebacker has left Kristian Welch, primarily a special teams contributor, as the Ravens' only other full-time inside linebacker. Even if the 32-year-old Bynes can recapture his 2021 form, the Ravens will have to start looking soon for a potential replacement. They could add a rookie in the draft, possibly as early as Day Two, or find cheap free-agent help available after it.

4. Defensive line

Defensive ends Campbell and Justin Madubuike and nose tackle Michael Pierce make up a solid starting front. It's probably better than the Ravens' front from their 2021 season opener, when Brandon Williams started at nose tackle against the Las Vegas Raiders.

But the group's limitations are obvious. Campbell is coming off a 1 1/2-sack season, Madubuike has shown only flashes of his pass-rush potential, and Pierce was rarely asked to pressure the pocket during his first stint in Baltimore. Elsewhere on the depth chart, Derek Wolfe is recovering from offseason hip surgery, and Broderick Washington is still better known for stuffing the run. In a league where everyone wants their own Aaron Donald, the Ravens must find their own young, disruptive interior presence. Campbell and Wolfe's uncertain futures should only hasten the Ravens' search.

3. Offensive tackle

Morgan Moses' arrival in Baltimore hasn't kept mock drafts from linking the Ravens to tackle prospects like Northern Iowa's Trevor Penning or Mississippi State's Charles Cross, but it has changed the narrative at No. 14. The Ravens, finally, now have at least one healthy starting tackle. If their encouraging updates on Ronnie Stanley's ankle and Ja'Wuan James' Achilles tendon continue into the summer, they could have at least two or three.

Still, backup plans are necessary. Asked last week about the front office's outlook on Stanley's future as it prepares for the draft, DeCosta said the Ravens "try to protect ourselves as best as we can." After all that Jackson endured last season, and with Mekari perhaps entrenched at center, that could mean spending a Day One or Day Two pick on a left tackle.

2. Cornerback

A year ago, the Ravens had maybe the NFL's best cornerback situation. And now? "I think we're definitely concerned," DeCosta said last week. Of the team's full-time corners, only rehabilitating stars Marlon Humphrey (pectoral) and Marcus Peters (knee) have started at least three games over the previous two seasons. "But again, until they come back," DeCosta added, "it's question marks."

Stephens can line up anywhere in the secondary, and Humphrey's experience in the slot is an asset. But after a disastrous season of pass defense, the Ravens still need to find at least one more starting corner before training camp opens. They could double-dip in the draft, rebuilding the depth that injuries depleted last year, and still be on the lookout for more help in the subsequent wave of free agency. There are just too many good passing attacks around the league, and too many question marks in Baltimore, for the Ravens to play it safe.

1. Edge rusher

In an ideal world for the Ravens, Odafe Oweh would enter training camp fully healthy after offseason shoulder surgery, while Tyus Bowser would be cleared by the season opener, having recovered from his Achilles tendon tear in just nine months. For veteran backup, they would have Daelin Hayes, finally healthy after an injury-marred rookie season, and Jaylon Ferguson, looking to bounce back after a largely anonymous third year.

So, yes, the Ravens' edge rushers will need some injury luck. They will need some self-improvement. Most of all, though, after finishing 28th in sack rate and 24th in pressure rate last season, according to Pro Football Reference, they will need some new pass-rush juice. Za'Darius Smith would've helped, but the Ravens' deal for him fell through in the first wave of free agency. The top edge rushers still available, including Jadeveon Clowney and Justin Houston, are only short-term solutions. That puts tremendous pressure on the Ravens to find an impact player with one of their first three picks in the draft.

Ravens Want 'Big Guys' At Center, See Good Depth In Draft

BALTIMORERAVENS.COM | APRIL 6, 2022 | RYAN MINK

One of the most popular mock draft projections to Baltimore has been Iowa center Tyler Linderbaum, but if General Manager Eric DeCosta isn't throwing up smokescreens, it doesn't seem to be a fit.

The Ravens are still looking to upgrade their offensive line. Last year's starting center, Bradley Bozeman, departed in free agency. On the surface, it makes sense.

But Linderbaum doesn't fit the mold of what the Ravens have usually looked for, or drafted/signed, at the position.

"Our philosophy, honestly, is we want big guys," DeCosta said in Tuesday's pre-draft press conference. "We want big guys at every position, across the offense, across the defense, in general."

Baltimore has a history of using big centers, from Matt Birk (6-4, 310), to Ryan Jensen (6-4, 319), to Bozeman (6-5, 325).

At 6-foot-2, 296 pounds, Linderbaum is one of the smallest offensive linemen in this year's draft. He has fantastic quickness, footwork, and a wrestler's mentality. But pundits believe Linderbaum's size will make him scheme dependent as more of a zone blocker.

The Ravens aren't the only team who like big, power-blocking centers. DeCosta said teams are increasingly drafting guards or even tackles and converting them to center. That's why so many players take snaps at center during the pre-draft process, just to see how natural they may be at the job.

Typically, DeCosta said there will only be one or two very good centers and they go pretty high. Then there's only four or five centers in the entire class that they view as draftable. This year is a little different, however.

"I think one of the cool things about this draft at the center position is we see four or five guys that we like that might not be first round-type picks and that might be second, third, or fourth round guys that we think would be good players at center this year," DeCosta said.

Some other centers in this year's class who will go in the middle-to-late rounds will be Kentucky's Luke Fortner, Nebraska's Cam Jurgens, LSU's Chasen Hines and Wake Forest's Zach Tom.

The Ravens have Patrick Mekari, who has two seasons of starting experience at center in Baltimore, and Trystan Colon. So the Ravens don't need an immediate starter. But if there's a chance to grab a talented prospect to groom for the long-term, Baltimore could pull the trigger.

"It's a tough position to play. There's a physical component," DeCosta said. "There's also a very, very strong mental component, as well. Leadership is important. So, you're really looking for the perfect guy to play that position, and it's very tough to find."

Regardless Of Ronnie Stanley's Health, Ravens Looking To Draft Offensive Tackle 'At Some Point'

BALTIMORERAVENS.COM | APRIL 6, 2022 | CLIFF BROWN

The Ravens are optimistic Ronnie Stanley will be healthy in 2022, but they are still watching offensive tackles closely heading into the draft.

Stanley missed all but one game last season and is rehabbing from his latest ankle surgery. It's too early to know if the All-Pro left tackle will be ready by Week 1, and the Ravens could use more tackle depth even if Stanley is 100 percent by September.

Baltimore has already strengthened the tackle position by signing Morgan Moses during free agency, but Moses has spent his entire career at right tackle. Ja'Wuan James is expected to be ready to play next season after missing 2021 with a torn Achilles tendon, but he is also primarily a right tackle.

Patrick Mekari has played some left tackle, but he could be the starting center next season, and it's not clear who would be the backup left tackle to Stanley if the season began today. Alejandro Villanueva has retired after stepping in for Stanley last season, so as the Ravens prepare for the draft, versatile offensive tackles are clearly on their radar.

"The fact remains that we're not sure how Ronnie is going to rebound," General Manager Eric DeCosta said. "We're optimistic. I don't want to speak for Ronnie, and I wouldn't speak in specifics, but we feel like he's on a good pace to come back. In saying that, we brought in Morgan. We have Ja'Wuan on hand as well. We feel that there's an opportunity in the draft to address the tackle spot at some point, whether it's in the first round or in the fourth round. There are good players all throughout this year; it's a very, very deep position class. There are a lot of different ways for us to skin the cat, and we'll do that at some point."

The addition of Moses, coupled with the Ravens' draft position at No. 14, could lessen the likelihood they will draft an offensive tackle in the first round unless Evan Neal of Alabama fell out of the top 10, or Charles Cross of Mississippi State was still on the board. In his latest mock draft, ESPN's Todd McShay had Cross going No. 13 to the Texans, one spot ahead of the Ravens.

Another first-round offensive tackle who has been linked to the Ravens is Trevor Penning of Northern Iowa, who opened eyes during Senior Bowl week by manhandling defensive linemen with a nasty disposition.

"I don't see any reason why he (Penning) can't be a rookie starter," NFL Network's Charles Davis said during the NFL Combine. "He's got good footwork. He plays with power. He's got an edge to him, a nastiness. It means something to him to try and dominate people."

However, if Stanley is healthy and Moses starts at right tackle, would the Ravens burn a first-round pick on a tackle who may not play much next season? The Ravens may choose to attack another position in Round 1, then use a Day 2 or Day 3 pick on an offensive

tackle. Some possibilities include Daniel Faalele of Minnesota, Abraham Lucas of Washington State, Max Mitchell of Louisiana and Nicholas Petit-Frere of Ohio State.

"We try to protect ourselves as best as we can," DeCosta said. "One of the ways that we did that was with Morgan Moses. We knew we had Ja'Wuan James on the team. We feel good about Ja'Wuan, [and] we've been impressed with what we've seen so far.

"But we have to protect ourselves, and so, we'll continue to do that, and some of that will be through the draft, some of that will be free agency, some of that will be undrafted free agents, some of that will be in May and June. We're just trying to find the best players to fit our team, that fit our culture, coachable, smart, durable, tough guys. We want to try to collect as many of those guys as possible, so that when we do suffer injuries – and we know we will – we'll have enough guys to help us withstand that and help us win games."

Five Things We Learned From The Ravens' Predraft News Conference

BALTIMORE SUN | APRIL 6, 2022 | CHILDS WALKER

Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta believes his team is positioned to take advantage of a deep draft class, with nine picks in the first four rounds and flexibility to move up or down. Here are five things we learned from the team's predraft news conference Tuesday:

Day 3 could be the Ravens' time of jubilee in the 2022 draft.

DeCosta and director of player personnel Joe Hortiz can't stop praising the depth of a 2022 draft class that's thought to be a touch short on superstar prospects. If they are correct, they're sitting on a winning hand, with five picks between 110 and 141 overall.

"It makes it fun on Friday night," Hortiz said, looking ahead to the time when the Ravens will finalize their plans for the last day of the draft.

He said the glut of prospects who stayed on campus for an extra year because of COVID-19 "allowed our board to beef up near the bottom of the draft." The Ravens believe they might help themselves at positions ranging from offensive tackle to cornerback to edge rusher.

With nine picks over the first four rounds, they will have the flexibility to move up or down as they please.

As excited as DeCosta sounded at this prospect, he's also a realist who understands the draft is a volume game more than a sharpshooting exercise. A look at recent history tells us to temper our expectations for what the Ravens will achieve on day three.

The last time they had so many fourth-round picks, in 2016, they came away with cornerback Tavon Young, wide receiver Chris Moore, guard Alex Lewis, defensive tackle Willie Henry and running back Kenneth Dixon. All showed flashes of promise in Baltimore, but not one turned into a star and not one remains on the team's roster. Of the 23 players they picked in the fourth over their last 10 drafts, only Za'Darius Smith became a major force, though the list includes quality players such as Anthony Averett and Kyle Juszczyk.

This will be a fun year for the Ravens draft junkies who consider seven-round mocks a little slice of heaven. But we should understand DeCosta will be lucky to come away with a starter or two from his fourth-round bonanza.

The Ravens will likely draft an offensive tackle in their quest to avoid a repeat of 2021.

DeCosta has said several times that the Ravens were caught off-guard by left tackle Ronnie Stanley's slow and ultimately unsuccessful recovery from ankle surgery. They did not set up enough contingency plans at tackle and paid for it by allowing 57 sacks, second most in the league.

DeCosta does not intend to make the same mistake again, even though he's maintaining optimism about Stanley's pace of recovery. "The fact remains we're not sure how Ronnie's going to rebound," he said Tuesday.

He did not guarantee the Ravens will draft a tackle to go along with free-agent addition Morgan Moses, but he came close. "There are good players all throughout this year; it's a very, very deep position class," DeCosta said. "So, there are a lot of different ways for us to skin the cat, and we'll do that at some point."

He and Hortiz suggested the Ravens could land a quality tackle anywhere from the first round, where they've been linked to Trevor Penning of Northern Iowa, to the fourth round. That player would not need to compete for a starting job if Stanley is anywhere close to his 2019 All-Pro form, but the Ravens know this is the time to stockpile protectors for Lamar Jackson.

Edge rusher and cornerback are the other positions the Ravens seem certain to address.

When Smith backed away from a deal to return to Baltimore, he left a significant hole in DeCosta's offseason shopping plan. The Ravens have yet to add a veteran edge defender, and the draft will be their best chance to add a high-end talent at the position.

"We expect there will be a run on those guys, probably in the top 10," DeCosta said. The depth of first-round prospects took a hit when Michigan's David Ojabo tore his Achilles tendon during his pro day workout. But DeCosta allowed that a quality outside rusher could fall to pick No. 14. Florida State's Jermaine Johnson has become a popular mock pairing for the Ravens.

Hortiz made an interesting point when asked about the prevalence of interior pass rushers in this draft class. He said there are a few but that the easier approach might be to draft an edge rusher with the power to slide inside. Johnson, for example, would fit that profile, but so would others. "Personally, I think it's a deep class of edge guys," Hortiz said.

The Ravens are less desperate for an immediate starter at cornerback, where they expect to have former All-Pros Marlon Humphrey and Marcus Peters for the start of the season. DeCosta did not mince words, however, in describing how thin they are behind their stars. "I think we're definitely concerned," he said.

Given the attrition the Ravens always seem to face in the secondary, it would be surprising if they do not draft multiple defensive backs later this month.

"There are opportunities for us, again, in the first round, second round, third round," DeCosta said. "Coach [Harbaugh] has been watching the corners as well, and we feel like we have the opportunity to take one or two corners in the draft that could come in and contribute right away. We're excited about that."

If the Ravens draft a center, don't expect it to be in the first round.

Iowa center Tyler Linderbaum was popular choice for the Ravens in early mock drafts. They need a starter to replace Bradley Bozeman, and he's considered an unusually polished prospect at the position.

But analysts have turned their eyes elsewhere, noting that Linderbaum is a better fit for a zone blocking scheme and that at 296 pounds, he does not match the Ravens' preference for burly linemen. Bozeman played at 325 pounds last season.

"Our philosophy, honestly, is we want big guys," DeCosta said. "We want big guys at every position."

He also noted the scarcity of potential starters in each draft class. Does that mean the Ravens will simply roll with Patrick Mekari and Trystan Colon and use their capital elsewhere?

Not necessarily. "I think one of the cool things about this draft at the center position is we see four or five guys that we like that might not be first round-type picks and that might be second-, third- or fourth-round guys that we think would be good players at center this year," DeCosta said.

Hortiz said there are also candidates who played other positions in college; he noted the Ravens' success in converting Ryan Jensen from a guard/tackle to one of the league's best centers.

So it's not Linderbaum or bust.

The Ravens will remain a draft-oriented team as long as Eric DeCosta is in charge.

All-in is all the rage after the Los Angeles Rams rode a roster heavy on veteran star power to victory in the Super Bowl.

The Ravens, by contrast, are known for hoarding draft picks and reserving most of their big spending for extensions rather than free agents from other teams. DeCosta does not seem in any hurry to change the philosophy he learned from Ozzie Newsome.

He recalled the franchise's early days in Baltimore, when outbidding flashier rivals was not an option. "The draft really became our lifeblood," he said. "It will always be the foundation of what we do, what we believe in."

Coach John Harbaugh noted that the Ravens have spent freely at times, most recently on safety Marcus Williams, a young star who filled a clear need. “It’s not an either-or type of deal,” he said, assessing the balance between drafting and signing established players.

But DeCosta watched and participated as Newsome built the Ravens’ identity around players such as Ray Lewis, Jonathan Ogden, Ed Reed and later Lamar Jackson. “I’ve just seen how it can be when it’s done the right way,” he said. “You bring in these young players, and they really do become part of the culture of the city.”

In other words, April will continue to be one of the most important months on the Ravens’ calendar.

As Ravens Prepare For Draft, Bluffing Could Be Part Of The Process, Too | Analysis

BALTIMORE SUN | APRIL 6, 2022 | JONAS SHAFFER

On Tuesday, Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta, coach John Harbaugh and director of player personnel Joe Hortiz took questions for 45 minutes at their predraft news conference and tried not to give anything valuable away.

The Ravens have 10 picks in this month’s NFL draft, and seemingly as many roster holes to fill. Given their considerable investment in the predraft process, team officials know better than to tip their hand. It’s called the “liars’ luncheon” for a reason. Last year, DeCosta said he was “insulted” by criticism of the Ravens’ unproven wide receiver group. His first pick less than two weeks later: Minnesota wide receiver Rashod Bateman.

Not every word from Tuesday’s session is worthy of scrutiny, but some topics merit deeper parsing. Here’s a look at what DeCosta said, whether he was bluffing and what he might actually be contemplating on draft day.

Will the Ravens draft a cornerback early?

DeCosta: “There are opportunities for us, again, in the first round, second round, third round. … We feel like we have the opportunity to take one or two corners in the draft that could come in and contribute right away.”

Verdict: Showing his hand. The Ravens need talented cornerbacks because, well, they don’t have a lot of them. DeCosta said Tuesday that he was “definitely concerned” about the depth at the position. Only Marlon Humphrey and Marcus Peters have started at least three games over the previous two seasons, and both are coming off season-ending injuries. Brandon Stephens can help out wherever he’s needed — in the slot, as a deep safety, as a box defender — but he’s not a full-time cornerback.

The Ravens not only need a slot corner to replace Tavon Young, but a potential successor for Peters out wide as well; he’s entering the final year of his contract and will turn 30 in January. With Cincinnati’s Ahmad “Sauce” Gardner unlikely to fall out of the top 10, the Ravens could have LSU’s Derek Stingley Jr. and Washington’s Trent McDuffie available at No. 14.

Or they could find a gem later in the draft. Four of Pro Football Focus’ six highest-rated rookie cornerbacks last season were top-33 picks, but the other two were a fifth-rounder (the Las Vegas Raiders’ Nate Hobbs) and an undrafted player (the Detroit Lions’ Jerry Jacobs).

Will the Ravens draft an offensive tackle early?

DeCosta: “We feel that there’s an opportunity in the draft to address the tackle spot at some point, whether it’s in the first round or the fourth round. There’s good players all throughout this year. It’s a very, very deep position class. And so there’s a lot of different ways for us to skin the cat. And we’ll do that at some point.”

Verdict: Bluffing slightly. Even with Morgan Moses signed to play right tackle and Ja’Wuan James apparently impressing team officials, the Ravens’ left tackle situation is perilous. DeCosta acknowledged that he’s “not sure how Ronnie [Stanley]’s going to rebound” from his second straight season-ending ankle injury. “We’re optimistic. I don’t want to speak for Ronnie, and I wouldn’t speak in specifics, but we feel like he’s on a good pace to come back.”

The Ravens “try to protect ourselves as best as we can,” DeCosta added later, and with the free-agent market unlikely to turn up another tackle like Moses, the draft is the safest path to stability. But how much security can a fourth-round pick offer? Only two tackles taken in the fourth round or later last year started more than four games as a rookie, and only one started more than eight. Even Orlando Brown Jr., a third-round pick in 2018, didn’t start regularly at right tackle until late October that season.

Are the Ravens comfortable drafting a developmental center?

DeCosta: “Our philosophy, honestly, is, we want big guys. We want big guys at every position across the offense, across the defense, in general. And so it’s a tough position to fill via the draft at times. And if there’s a guy, if there’s one or two outstanding prospects in the draft, they typically go pretty high. And then after that, you’re looking at a bunch of guys that might be pretty good, might not be pretty good.”

Verdict: Showing his hand. The Ravens have already signaled their commitment to Patrick Mekari at center. There’s only one center who’s considered a first-round prospect, Iowa’s Tyler Linderbaum, and he’s not necessarily a “big guy.” According to MockDraftable, he’s in the first percentile for wingspan and arm length and in the fifth percentile for weight (296 pounds) among offensive line prospects.

If the Ravens indeed pass on Linderbaum, DeCosta said the team has “four or five guys that we like that might not be first-round-type picks.” Versatility could be key. While Trystan Colon has been a solid reserve, Hortiz indicated that the Ravens could be in the market for college guards who could move over to center at the next level.

Could the Ravens draft a running back with a first- or second-round pick?

DeCosta: “I don’t know about a first-round pick, because I just don’t see that player there for us. But as we get into the second round, third round, fourth round, we’re going to look at the best players. And if the best player happens to be a running back — I mean, let’s face it: We run the ball more than most teams do. … So if the right guy falls, we will certainly strike.”

Verdict: Slightly bluffing. The Ravens’ running back room is a work in progress. Harbaugh said at the NFL owners meetings last week that J.K. Dobbins and Gus Edwards could start training camp on the physically-unable-to-perform list as they work their way back from knee operations. Justice Hill is returning from a torn Achilles tendon. Ty’Son Williams struggled to distinguish himself after a promising start.

But even with the Ravens’ run-heavy approach, it’s hard to imagine DeCosta valuing a top running back in the second round over a top offensive tackle, edge rusher or cornerback. Teams find starting-caliber running backs year after year in the later rounds of the draft. Edwards wasn’t even drafted. The Ravens’ injury situation has made running back a need this offseason, but not a major one.

Is this draft deeper than previous ones?

DeCosta: “I think the last couple years, we’ve had more guys. I don’t know if our scouts were more optimistic or [whether] it was just more players. But we have approximately … 180 players, I think, give or take, on the front board that we think are draftable players for the Ravens. That number will probably be somewhere between 170-195 players when it’s all said and done.”

Verdict: Probably bluffing. Consider that, just a few minutes earlier, Hortiz had called it a “pretty deep draft,” citing the number of players who’d taken advantage of their extra year of NCAA eligibility to improve their draft stock. “When you look at our board, the volume of players on our board compared to previous boards, it’s probably a little bit higher,” Hortiz said.

The Ravens have been thinking about this draft “for the last year,” according to DeCosta, who made three trades during or after the 2021 draft to acquire later-round picks in the 2022 draft. Even if there are fewer bona fide prospects in the later rounds than expected, the Ravens should find great value in the fourth round, where they have five selections.

Why It Could Be A Defensive-Heavy Draft For The Ravens

BALTIMORERAVENS.COM | APRIL 4, 2022 | RYAN MINK

Known for their defensive tradition, the Baltimore Ravens are out to restore order in the 2022 offseason.

The Ravens already made a big investment in safety Marcus Williams, and as they turn their focus to the NFL draft later this month, it's clear there's much more work to do on the defense.

"It could be an all-defensive draft for all I know," Owner Steve Bisciotti said at last week's league meetings, "and I'd be more than happy with that."

Here are five reasons why this could be a defensive-heavy draft for the Ravens:

Free-agency "losses"

While the Ravens reeled in a premier free safety in Williams, they tried to also ink pass rusher Za'Darius Smith and reportedly inside linebacker Bobby Wagner. Smith backed out of a contract agreement and landed in Minnesota and Wagner opted to go back to his L.A. roots with the defending champion Rams. Still, the Ravens' interest shows they were willing to spend big money to upgrade at those two spots.

Depth needed at CB

The Ravens' cornerback unit has taken the biggest hits in free agency, leaving the unit thin behind one of the league's best duos in Marlon Humphrey and Marcus Peters. Tavon Young was released in a salary-cap savings move, Anthony Averett signed with the Raiders, Jimmy Smith could retire and Chris Westry went to Carolina. The Ravens don't necessarily need a starter, but any good secondary in today's NFL needs at least three starting caliber cornerbacks and Baltimore's injury history at the position has shown you can never have too many.

Pass-rusher remains a question

Only eight teams had fewer sacks than the Ravens' 34 last season. Tyus Bowser, who led the team with seven sacks, is rehabbing a torn Achilles suffered in the regular-season finale. Veteran Justin Houston is a free agent. First-round pick Odafe Oweh will be leaned on to make a Year 2 leap, but the Ravens need more assistance. Edge rusher is a position where the Ravens could make a first-round pick and possibly double up considering there's a lot of depth.

First-round talent is defensive rich

Part of the fun of the pre-draft process is pouring over the top analysts' mock drafts, trying to get a general feel for who the first-round picks will be and in what range. The consensus is that it's not a particularly strong quarterback class and that defensive players will dominate the top 15 picks. There could be three or four offensive tackles taken, but the quarterbacks and wide receivers will be sparse. When Baltimore is on the clock, its top choices will probably be skewed more toward defensive players just based on how the board is stacked.

Offensive needs are for depth

Improving the offensive line is a high priority this season, but the Ravens' signing of dependable veteran right tackle Morgan Moses already went a long way in helping. Baltimore didn't retain center Bradley Bozeman, but Patrick Mekari is now free to slide back to center, where he has extensive starting experience. The Ravens don't need to draft a Day 1 starter at any offensive spot, rather focusing on depth (or future starter) additions at center, offensive tackle, tight end and running back. Some of those will probably be addressed in the draft, but others could be filled by a post-draft veteran signing.

2022 Offseason Needs For All 32 NFL Teams After NFL Free Agency

PRO FOOTBALL FOCUS | MARCH 22, 2022 | ANTHONY TREASH

The first wave of NFL free agency has come and gone.

While NFL teams have been busy signing players to fill roster holes, that doesn't mean that every need has been accounted for. In most cases, there are still areas of weakness that can be improved through the 2022 NFL Draft.

Here are the updated offseason needs for all 32 NFL teams after the first week of free agency.

BALTIMORE RAVENS: CB, DL

The Ravens made a power play for one of the best safeties in the game last week, signing Marcus Williams to a five-year, $70 million deal. Williams, one of the five most valuable players at the position since 2017, joins a star-studded secondary with Marcus Peters and Marlon Humphrey, but the team could still use another quality cornerback.

Washington cornerback Trent McDuffie, who allowed just 111 yards on 296 coverage snaps in 2021, wouldn’t be a bad addition with the No. 14 overall pick.

CINCINNATI BENGALS: G

After fielding one of the league's worst offensive lines in 2020, the unit modestly improved to “very bad” in 2021, raising their team pass-blocking grade from 30th league-wide to 25th.

The Bengals' brass set out to rebuild the offensive line as a result, and they’ve already replaced three of the five starting spots with center Ted Karras, right guard Alex Cappa and right tackle La’el Collins. They’ll join returning left tackle Jonah Williams, but the left guard spot is still questionable ahead of 2022.

Last year’s second-round pick Jackson Carman is a candidate to fill the spot, but he ranked 65th of 79 guards in PFF grade last season. A second-year breakout could be in order, but the team could look to add another veteran to compete and add depth.

CLEVELAND BROWNS: WR, DI, EDGE

Cleveland’s receiving unit still needs some work despite Amari Cooper‘s presence on the roster. After Cooper, they have Donovan Peoples-Jones, Anthony Schwartz and Jakeem Grant. Neither Peoples-Jones nor Schwartz has shown much to get excited about, with career receiving grades below 70.0. Grant is more of a return specialist who has never run more than 250 routes in a single season.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS: QB, OT

The Steelers will be looking to Mitchell Trubisky, Mason Rudolph and Dwayne Haskins as their possible options at quarterback for 2022, and they have all produced more turnover-worthy plays than big-time throws for their careers. Needless to say, this remains a significant need.